



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information contact:**

Kathleen Glass  
Communications Manager  
Asheville Art Museum  
828.253.3227, ext. 116  
kglass@ashevilleart.org

***The Asheville Art Museum presents Mel Chin: High, Low and In Between, a special installation and recent works by the artist***  
Exhibition Opens July 27 with Reception August 3 (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

ASHEVILLE, NC—The Museum is pleased to present the exhibition *Mel Chin: High, Low and In Between*, opening Friday, July 27, with an opening reception on **Friday, August 3 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (free with Membership or Museum Admission)**. This exhibition is generously sponsored by an anonymous donor with additional support provided by Chatsworth Art & Antiques. The exhibition is organized and curated by the Asheville Art Museum. Visitors to the exhibition will enjoy a special installation, *The Funk & Wag from A to Z*, shown alongside recent works by Chin representing the artist's ruminations on war, religion and politics.

Recognized as an important artist of our time, Mel Chin's work evades easy classification. Analytical and poetic, he combines cross-cultural aesthetics and complex ideas, exploring natural and social ecology and the role of art in provoking greater social awareness and responsibility.

*Mel Chin: High, Low and In Between* features a new installation of *The Funk & Wag from A to Z*, originally curated by Ann Harithas for the Nave Museum in Victoria, TX. As in the original installation, Chin extracts images from all 25 volumes of the 1953 Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia and reconfigures them as collages, unleashing the potentiality of images trapped by historical context in this new configuration of the work for the Asheville Art Museum. Through Chin's creation of over five hundred dramatic, black and white collages, compelling new political and psychological associations emerge to confound and inspire.

Mel Chin is known for the broad range of approaches in his art, including works that require multi-disciplinary, collaborative teamwork and works that conjoin cross-cultural aesthetics with complex ideas.

For instance, from 1995 to 1997, Chin organized ninety people to produce *In the Name of the Place*, a conceptual public art project conducted on prime-time television. This work debuted at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, CA, and concluded with an auction at Sotheby's with all proceeds donated to create educational scholarships. In 1997, Chin completed two large-scale public commissions, titled *Seven Wonders* and *Signal*. *Seven Wonders*, located in the Sesquicentennial Park in Houston, TX, featured the art of 1,050 public school children born in the year of the Sesquicentennial, realized in seven seventy-foot high towers lit as lanterns along the city waterway. *Signal*, a collaboration with The Six Nations of the Iroquois and Seneca Tribe member Peter Jemison, was designed for the Broadway/Lafayette Subway Station in New York City.

Chin also promotes works of art that have the ultimate effect of benefiting science, as in *Revival Field*, 1990-ongoing, and also in the current *Operation Paydirt* project, an attempt to make New Orleans, and cities across the U.S., lead-safe cities (see [www.fundred.org](http://www.fundred.org)). These projects are consistent with a conceptual philosophy, which emphasizes the practice of art to include sculpting and bridging the natural and social ecology.

Mel Chin continues to exhibit extensively in the United States and Europe, including one-man exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, the Menil Collection, Houston, TX, Storefront for Art and Architecture, NYC, and the Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia, PA. Chin was one of 16 artists included in the first year of the PBS Series, *Art of the 21st Century*, in 2001. A retrospective exhibition of his artwork will be presented at the New Orleans Museum of Art in 2014.

Additional work by Mel Chin can be seen online at [www.melchin.org](http://www.melchin.org).

### **About the Asheville Art Museum**

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

Additional information for upcoming exhibitions and public programs at the Museum can be found online at [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org).

**Special thanks to [Bold Life](#), [Verve](#) and [Carolina Home & Garden](#) magazines for their support as a Media Sponsor of the Museum for the 2013 fiscal year.** For more information about media sponsorships, please email Kathleen Glass, Communications Manager, at [kglass@ashevilleart.org](mailto:kglass@ashevilleart.org).

**Image credit: *The Elementary Object*, 1993, Corsican briarwood, steel, plastic, concrete/vermiculite, excelsior packing material, flannel, paper tag, fuse cord, triple F blasting powder. 3 1/2 x 12 1/2 x 10 1/4 inches. Multiple of 13.**

**# # #**

**The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.**

**Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.**

**Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors, students with ID and for children 4-15 (children age three and younger are admitted free). Members are admitted free to the Museum.**

**The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.**

**The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.**