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Art Exhibit Exploring Slavery and Agriculture Opening in Little Rock, Ark.

Little Rock, Ark., August 1, 2024 — Arkansas artist Marjorie Williams-Smith will exhibit her new series, *BLACK FIELDS: Crops Cultivated by Africans Who Were Enslaved Cotton, Tobacco, Rice, and Sugar*, at Hearne Fine Art Gallery in Little Rock, Ark. The exhibition opens on September 19, 2024, and ends on November 30, 2024.

Inspired by *The New York Times Magazine's* acclaimed *1619 project*, *BLACK FIELDS* is a culmination of years of travel, research, and learning about the history of American agriculture. Williams-Smith, an acclaimed artist with a career that spans more than three decades, has traveled throughout several southern states for this series, appreciating the beauty of American agriculture and learning about the brutality used to make it prosper.

"This project is near and dear to me. I went on my own personal journey, learning about my family and their role in cultivating crops that helped shape this country," said Williams-Smith. "I hope this series will encourage people to learn about out their heritage and about our American history."



BLACK FIELDS: The Trunk (Or How Enslaved People from West Africa Brought Rice Cultivation to South Carolina and Which Made Enslavers Rich.)

2023. Silverpoint on prepared watercolor paper

9 3/4" x 13 1/4"

BLACK FIELDS contains more than 20 drawings. The works include both landscapes and detailed plant drawings of irrigation systems, cotton, tobacco, rice and sugar.

In addition to the exhibition, Hearne Fine Art is hosting several events related to the show. The events include:

- **ARTIST RECEPTION**

Friday, October 11, 2024, at 5:00 pm - 8 :00 pm

Hearne Fine Art, 1001 Wright Ave, Little Rock, AR 72206

- **ARTIST TALK**

Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 2:00 pm

Hearne Fine Art, 1001 Wright Ave, Little Rock, AR 72206

- **VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING with MARJORIE WILLIAMS-SMITH**

Sunday, November 3, 2024, at 2:00 pm

<https://tinyurl.com/BlackFieldsHFAVAT11324>

- **SILVERPOINT DEMONSTRATION**

Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Hearne Fine Art, 1001 Wright Ave, Little Rock, AR 72206

MORE ABOUT THE ARTIST

Marjorie Williams-Smith, a native of Washington, DC, received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Howard University in Washington and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. She has exhibited her work regionally and nationally and her work is included in private and public collections including: the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock; Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, Little Rock, Arkansas; Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock; Evansville Museum of Arts, History, & Science, Evansville, Indiana.

Marjorie has received numerous awards for her artwork and was honored to create art for the United States Mint, which served as the design for the Congressional Medal honoring the “Little Rock Nine.” Most recently she was awarded the Arkansas Governor’s Arts Award for an Individual Artist.