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CHEEKWOOD LAUNCHES NEW ART INITIATIVE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ARTIST BETH KATLEMAN

INTERVENTIONS: BETH KATLEMAN
TO DEBUT SEPTEMBER 18

(Nashville, TN) - In the fall of this year, Cheekwood Estate & Gardens will launch its latest innovative arts initiative focused on activating the Historic Mansion & Museum’s period rooms with the exhibit *Interventions: Beth Katleman*. Intended to enliven a historic environment, this program, in its inaugural year, will feature artist Beth Katleman. This new initiative aims to create a complementary dialogue between the craftsmanship of the creative contemporary minds of today and the classical collections present within the Cheekwood mansion. It will begin September 18 and will run through January 9, 2022.

Katleman, will install her whimsical and satirical work offering a creative temporary shift in perspective on the museum’s permanent collection. She derives her inspiration from eighteenth century Chippendale designs and traditional toile patterns to fabricate intricate installations made of porcelain. Interlaced with charming classical references and satirical dark humor, her work places a quirky twist on the popular designs of the past. Casts are made from flea market trinkets in white porcelain and arranged into ornate configurations that create allegories referenced from pop culture, fairytales and classical literature.

“As a highly unique program and opportunity for contemporary minds to install their works alongside historic museum collections in an authentic period room environment, this is a practice rarely attempted in historic American houses,” says Katelyn Bennett, Curator of Furniture, Decorative Arts and Architecture at Cheekwood. “The practice of marrying dynamic yet harmonious artforms within period rooms is a nontraditional initiative presenting Cheekwood with an exciting opportunity.”

Working from her Brooklyn studio, Beth Katleman has made headlines for her elaborate and eye-catching work worldwide and has caught the attention of designers, collectors, and curators alike after having shown at Art Basel and New York's Winter Antiques Show. She has received commissions from leading designers like Christian Dior and has installed works across the globe spanning London, Hong Kong, New South Wales, Australia, and recently Limoges, France.

About Cheekwood

Cheekwood is considered one of the finest early-twentieth century estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the extraordinary 1930s estate, with its 30,000 square foot Mansion and 55 acres of cultivated gardens and expansive vistas, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum, and museum with period rooms and art galleries, showcasing works from its permanent collection as well as traveling exhibitions. The property includes 12 distinct gardens including the Blevins Japanese Garden and the Bracken Foundation Children's Garden, as well as a 1.5-mile woodland trail featuring modern and contemporary outdoor sculpture. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and is a three-time *USA Today* Top 10 Botanical Garden. In 2020, the grounds were awarded a Level II National Arboretum Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum. Cheekwood is located just 8 miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. Daily hours of operation: Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to Cheekwood must be purchased in advance at cheekwood.org. For further information, call 615-356-8000 or visit cheekwood.org.

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