**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Call for Artists – Bellamy Mansion Spring 2017 Art Show and Sale: “Then & Now”**

**Bellamy Mansion Calls on Artists to Showcase Wilmington, Past and Present, in Upcoming Exhibition, Sale**

**Historic Bellamy Mansion Museum of History and Design Arts is excited to launch the Spring 2017 Art Show April 5 through May 26, 2017 in its charming mansion in the heart of the downtown historic overlay district. The show will open Wednesday, April 5 with a reception from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to showcase the beauty of Wilmington and the diverse creative talents of Wilmington’s artists. Using Wilmington’s history, people, architecture, parks, flora and fauna, cemeteries, riverfront, bridges, beaches, etc. as inspiration, artists will create original artwork for submission for the show and sale. The works will hang for 8 weeks in the Mansion during the Azalea Festival and the Wilmington Wine & Food Festival. The Bellamy Mansion will be featured on the 2017 Azalea Festival Garden Club tour.**

**“There is so much beauty in our city, past and present, and we’re excited to see that beauty interpreted by the many talented artists we have in Wilmington,” says Toni Radcliffe, chairperson for the event.**

**The Bellamy Mansion Art Show is open to all artists 18 years of age and older. Artists may submit ORIGINAL two-dimensional (2-D) work to include painting, pastel, drawing, printmaking, photography, digital imaging, fiber art, mosaics, stained glass, mixed media, and three-dimensional (3-D) work. 70 percent of the proceeds of the sale will go to the artist, with 30 percent donated to the Bellamy Mansion. There is a non-refundable entry fee of $20 for non-students and $10 for part-time or full-time students of an accredited school.**

**The Bellamy Mansion will offer monetary awards as well as honorable mention, and People’s Choice awards. The ballots will be tallied, and awards given at the closing party on May 26 from 5:30 to 7:30. “We are excited to be able to award monetary prizes at our spring event,” says Ms. Radcliffe. “We are dedicated to creating economic opportunities, as well as recognition for artists in our area. The exhibition will be juried by Joanne Geisel and Gale Smith, accomplished visual artists and teachers.**

**Award winning artist, Joanne Q. Geisel describes herself as an America Impressionist painter whose original oil paintings depict the Carolina coast. Joanne has a bachelor’s degree in art education and Master’s in Public Administration. She continued her own art education through workshops and college courses and worked in the field of adult education for over 16 years. Joanne is on the faculty of the Cameron Art Museum School and teaches in many other venues in the area. Her paintings can be found in a number of North Carolina galleries including , Spectrum Gallery, Wilmington; Lantana’s Gallery and Fine Gifts, Southport; Room Service, Bald Head Island; All About Art, Bald Head Island; City Art Gallery, Greenville, NC; and Baxter’s Fine Art, New Bern, NC, as well as corporate and private collections. You can see Joanne’s work at** [www.JoanneGeisel.com](http://www.JoanneGeisel.com)**.**

**Whether Gale Smith is painting en plein aire or in her studio, she finds endless inspiration from the landscape of Wilmington, North Carolina and its surrounding coastal areas. She is drawn to scenes that have strong light and shadows and that convey feelings of warmth and comfort.**

**A native of Raleigh, N.C., she attended UNC Chapel Hill and Meredith College where she studied design but she considers painting as an ongoing study. She has studied with Robert Longley at the Cape Cod School of Art in Provincetown, MA and also studied with Lois Griffel, the former director of the Cape Cod School of Art. Gale is an award winning artist with her works exhibited in galleries, private collections and corporate installations.**

**Gale has found a new interest in working with copper. As a plein aire painter, she began using copper panels as her canvas and loved how the copper made her colors warm and vibrant. She experimented with different gauges of copper and mediums and discovered that inks and oils on copper made colors radiate vibrantly. Never quite sure where the colors and copper will take her; she paints, cuts and weaves two abstract paintings together to create a dimensional piece of art. The soft gentle curves that she cuts into the copper, allows her to form the piece into soothing and thought provoking structural designs. It is her desire that the viewer will experience a personal interaction with her art. Often, she writes small quotes, prayers or poems that relate to the piece of work on the back of the copper strips and weaves them into the design. Gale donates a portion of the proceeds from her sales to various organizations and charities.**

**Deadline for completed works is Friday, March 31, 2107. Accepted work must be hand-delivered on Thursday, 3/30/17 from 1-4 PM or Friday, 3/31/17 from 11 AM - 4 PM, 2017. An application form must be completed and each artist must register by 3/15/17.**

**Submittal requirements and applications are available at** www.bellamymansion.org**, by email at** info@bellamymansion.org **or by calling 910-251-3700.**

**About Bellamy Mansion**

**The Bellamy Mansion Museum of History and Design Arts, located in historic downtown, Wilmington, NC was built between 1859 and 1861. Located on Market Street in the heart of the extensive historic overlay district, this spectacular mansion is one of North Carolina’s finest examples of the art of architecture. Designed with Greek Revival and Italianate styling, the house was constructed with the labor of both enslaved skilled carpenters, and local, freed black artisans. The mansion is open for individual, group and school tours six days a week, hosts a rich educational program and features art exhibitions and musical programs.**

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