Introduction

*Skinner Museum 75* celebrates the landmark bequest of the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum to the College in 1946. Comprising back-to-back solo exhibitions of the work of Lenka Clayton and vanessa german, this two-part exhibition series reanimates and reorients Skinner Museum objects and their stories through the two artists' unique creative practices.

Clayton and german were invited to study the Skinner collection during a series of visits and to create a new body of work inspired by what they encountered. The collection—ranging from Lakota Sioux beadwork and a merchant ship's carved figurehead, to 19th-century portraits by Erastus Salisbury Field and dinosaur tracks—is an impressive and unwieldy 19th- and early 20th-century trove of over 7,000 fascinating objects.

Over the course of two years, and in the midst of a global health crisis, Clayton and german honed their conceptual projects, bringing together both well-known and obscure objects and artworks from the Skinner collection, imbuing them with new meaning and offering fresh perspectives.

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THE LEGACY OF Joseph Allen Skinner

Skinner Museum 75 installation photographs by Laura Shea, 2021