



exhibition guide

Skinner 5 Museum 7

THE JOSEPH ALLEN SKINNER MUSEUM
AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 – MAY 28, 2023

HARRIET L. AND PAUL M. WEISSMAN GALLERY



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.

This exhibition is made possible by the Susan B. Weatherbie Exhibition Fund and the Leon Levy Foundation.



Skinner Museum 75 installation photographs by Laura Shea, 2021