

***Souvenir* opens at The Rollins Museum of Art
Saturday, January 17, 2026**



The Rollins Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening of its highlight winter exhibition, *Souvenir*, on **Saturday, January 17, 2026**. The exhibition will remain on view through May 10.

Souvenirs represent a fraught space that engages the sacred, the commercial, and the aesthetic. They merge the ephemeral practice of pilgrimage with the material world. Souvenirs offer portals to specific times and places and illustrate the stories we tell about who we are and what we value. When souvenirs are scaled-down versions of monumental structures, like a miniature Eiffel Tower, they allow us to carry and comprehend an overwhelmingly large experience. Our natural tendency to associate memories with objects has resulted in practices such as pilgrims collecting fragments from holy sites, and the mass production of mementos.

Carrie Mae Weems (American, b.1963) *Louvre*, 2006, Digital c-print, 73 x 61 in., The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art. Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alfond, 2014.1.24 © Carrie Mae Weems. Image courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

The history of museums can be traced back to cabinets of curiosities, which displayed artifacts from the natural world and items collected during the Grand Tour. Contemporary artists offer a critical perspective on the history of collecting and consumption.

"Many of these artists are fellow young academics whose work I've been thinking about for years," explains *Souvenir* co-curator Audrey Hope, MFA, Assistant Professor of Art, Rollins College. "Their work brought up questions about the manufacture of cultural patrimony for tourist consumption, technologies of display, and the disturbing histories of souvenirs in the South. I wanted to bring a strong presence of artists who are asking significant questions with their work *right now*."

Curated together with Dr. Gisela Carbonell, Curator at the Rollins Museum of Art, the exhibition explores the intertwined histories of travel and collecting in visual art through transhistorical dialogues. *Souvenir* features a selection of works from the museum's collection alongside strategic loans that enhance this conversation.

"I was surprised how many works in our collection explore the themes of travel, collecting, and memory across different historical periods. With Prof. Hope's expertise, we organized a show that we hope will broaden opportunities to engage students, faculty, and the community by presenting familiar objects in a wider context. We considered history, popular culture, technology, memory, and storytelling to explore a topic that is familiar yet intriguing." Gisela Carbonell, Ph.D., Curator, Rollins Museum of Art



For example, Haim Steinbach's *Untitled (Travel Bag)* places an iconic blue Pan Am travel bag inside a wooden frame and glass shelf, blending the visual language of museums and retail stores. The bag is a relic of Pan American World Airways, which pioneered modern air travel. It symbolizes the idolization of travel as leisure, celebrates objects representing global mobility, and evokes nostalgia for an idealized past.

Haim Steinbach (Israel, b. 1944) *Untitled (travel bag)*, 2012
Wood, plastic, laminate and glass box; travel bag 50 1/2 x 59 21/64 x 23 21/64 in. The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art. Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alfond, 2013.34.115 Image courtesy of the artist and Tanya Bonakder Gallery, New York.

In *Louvre*, as pictured above by Carrie Mae Weems, the artist stands with her back turned towards the camera in front of I.M. Pei's iconic pyramid. Her quiet contemplation serves as a form of protest and a testament to years of discriminatory collecting and exhibiting practices. As a woman of color and an artist, she performs at each site she photographs, evoking years of exclusion and reminding us of how much ground we still need to cover on the path to equality.

And, a more abstract example, *Organ Exchange*, by brothers Einar and Jamex de la Torre, is inspired by a personal experience with a kidney transplant needed for a relative. The work is a reflection on the value of the human body versus its parts and encourages viewers to consider this transfer between living people as a form of exchange, akin to the movement of goods across borders (as the brothers now live and work on both sides of the border, in San Diego and Ensenada).

"Audrey Hope and Gisela Carbonell's collaboration showcases the powerful synergy of an academic art museum, where faculty scholarship meets curatorial expertise to bring new perspectives to the public." Leslie Anderson, MBA, Bruce A. Beal Executive Director, Rollins Museum of Art

We hope you may be able to join us at the private reception on **Friday, January 16** from **5:30-7pm** to celebrate the opening of *Souvenir*. Additional events include its dedicated exhibition tour on **Friday, February 20** at **11am** with Curator Dr. Gisela Carbonell and Prof. Audrey Hope, as well as "An Evening with Artist Dr. Saúl Hernández-Vargas," who is featured in the show, on **Tuesday, March 3** at **6pm**.

Find more information about all of our featured exhibitions and not-to-be-missed talks & tours [on our website](#). To note, we will also celebrate the extension of [*Portrait of a Movement: A New Approach to the Bloomsbury Group*](#), remaining on view through May 10, 2026.

THE ROLLINS MUSEUM OF ART The Rollins Museum of Art features rotating exhibitions, ongoing programs, and an extensive permanent collection of over 6,000 objects that spans centuries, from examples of ancient art and artifacts to contemporary art. Open to the public year-round, its holdings include the only European Old Master paintings in the Orlando area, a sizeable American art collection, and a forward-thinking contemporary collection on view both at the Museum and The Alford Inn at Rollins. Located a few blocks from campus, The Alford Inn is a visionary philanthropic boutique hotel whose proceeds help fund student scholarships. In 1981, the museum became Florida's first accredited college museum by the American Association of Museums (currently the American Alliance of Museums) and continues today as one of only four AAM-accredited museums in greater Orlando. For additional information, call 407.646.2526 or visit www.rollins.edu/rma. "Like" the RMA on Facebook and follow on Instagram @rollinsmuseum. The Rollins Museum of Art is also part of the Bloomberg Connects network, which offers expert-curated guides from cultural institutions across the globe. Find us there, with [more information here](#).

ROLLINS COLLEGE Founded in 1885, Rollins College is Florida's oldest recognized college. Located in Winter Park, near Orlando, Rollins is consistently ranked as one of the top regional universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report. In addition to full-time undergraduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts, Rollins offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for working adults through its evening program at the Hamilton Holt School and graduate business degree programs through its Crummer Graduate School of Business, which has been ranked a top MBA program by Forbes and Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Rollins serves approximately 3,127 degree-seeking students annually. For more information, visit www.rollins.edu. "Like" Rollins on Facebook and follow on X @RollinsCollege.

Museum Location

Rollins Museum of Art, Rollins College
1000 Holt Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789
407.646.2526

Museum Hours

Tuesday: 10am-7pm
Wednesday-Friday: 10am-4pm
Saturday-Sunday: 12-5pm
Closed Mondays, major holidays, and during installation periods

Alford Inn Location

The Alford Inn at Rollins College
300 East New England Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Press Contact

Lindsay DeSantis | Publicist
lindsay@lindsaydesantis.com | 814-460-3365

Museum Contact

Jamie Donmoyer | Digital Initiatives Coordinator
jfriedmandonmoyer@rollins.edu