

Weisman Art Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL.
THREADS SHOWCASES STUDENT DESIGNS**

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

6:00 p.m. Members Lounge | 7:00 p.m. Doors | 7:30 p.m. Runway Show

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum’s student group, WAM Collective, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota College of Design, presents *Threads*, a student design competition and fashion show.

Ten finalists from the University of Minnesota’s apparel design program have been selected to go head to head as they send original garments down the runway. Student designers were asked to interpret Laylah Ali’s Greenheads Series into a ready-for-the-runway garment that narrates personal experiences and stories. The designs have been constructed utilizing nontraditional materials, sculptural shaping, and innovative surface textures. Hair and makeup styling, provided by Juut Salonspa, will complete the looks.

The runway show will be juried by five local art, fashion, and design insiders: Carolyn Halliday, textile artist; Caroline Hayden, apparel designer; Lyle Jackson, costume designer at Tulle and Dye; Sara Rogers, the Mall of America’s style expert; and Nate Young, multimedia artist. Twin Cities trend expert and media maven Grant Whittaker will emcee the event. Designs will be judged not only on aesthetic merit, but also on interpretation of the theme and articulation of the designer’s perspective and identity. A package of covetable prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners, as well as two honorable mentions.

In addition to the runway show and Q&A sessions with each designer, the event will also feature a dance performance by House of John Mark, a VIP lounge for WAM members, and a cash bar for all attendees. This event is free for WAM members and U of M students and \$5 for general admission.

A reservation is required to attend the event.

ABOUT WAM AND WAM COLLECTIVE

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

WAM Collective serves as the student voice of and for the Weisman. WAM Collective aims to create connections and develop relationships between the museum and the University's student body. The Collective fosters student ownership of the museum, advises staff on effective ways to engage students, and is proactive in promoting the museum throughout the University and beyond.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF DESIGN

The University of Minnesota College of Design works to advance the quality and value of natural, designed, and social environments. It is home to seven undergraduate majors, nineteen graduate degree programs, ten centers, and the Goldstein Museum of Design. Located in one of the major design cities and in one of the largest research universities in the U.S., the College of Design encompasses a full range of design disciplines at the University.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Laylah Ali: The Greenheads Series
February 16 through May 12, 2013

This is the first exhibition of the controversial Greenheads paintings as a complete body of work. Williams College Museum of Art organized *Laylah Ali: The Greenheads*. Created between 1996 and 2005, Ali's gouache on paper paintings feature enigmatic, round-headed beings of indeterminate sex and race who inhabit a regimented, dystopian world where odd and menacing, though sometimes strangely humorous, encounters prevail.

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