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Contact: Steve Vehorn  
Assistant Director of Communications  
(804) 523-5229  
svehorn@reynolds.edu



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**Reynolds Receives Generous Donation from Henrietta Near**

RICHMOND, Va. (March 1, 2018) – Reynolds Community College has received a generous gift from local artist and gallery founder Henrietta Near. More than 40 pieces of Ms. Near’s artwork have been added to the Reynolds Art Collection and will be exhibited permanently on all three of the college’s campuses on Friday, March 2, 2018. Reynolds has three campuses: the Parham Road Campus - 1651 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA, 23228, the Downtown Campus - 700 East Jackson Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, and the Goochland Campus - 1851 Dickinson Road, Goochland, Virginia 23063.

Henrietta Near is a prolific local artist whose career has spanned several decades. Her timeless artwork is whimsical, colorful and pushes the boundaries of the many forms of media she employs. She has created oil pastels, silk screen prints, photographs, collages, and assemblages. Examples of each have been included in her donation. Henrietta’s love of nature and her exuberance are evident in her choice of feathers and bird’s nests in her assemblages, her vibrant colors in her oil pastels, and the rolling water in her photographs.

Henrietta Near is also one of the founders of two iconic Richmond art galleries, Artspace and art6. Thanks to her efforts and those of her fellow artists, in the 1980s small art galleries opened along East Broad Street and it became known as Richmond’s “arts district.” Henrietta was instrumental in starting First Friday Artwalks, the monthly “open house” of art galleries that drew thousands to the area. In 2009 Henrietta and the original Artspace founders were named *Style Magazine* “Richmonders of the Year” for their accomplishments.

Henrietta Near, along with fellow artists Janet Gilmore-Bryan and Chuck Scalin have made generous donations of their work to the Reynolds Art Collection. These works will be permanently exhibited on all three campuses for students, faculty, staff and the public to enjoy for years to come.

*Serving over 18,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.*