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For Immediate Release

Images available upon request.

MUSCARELLE ANNOUNCES 1619 / 2019 PURCHASE AWARDS AND EXHIBITION EXTENSION

Exhibition Open Now Through January 26, 2019

Williamsburg, Va. (December 19, 2019) – The Muscarelle Museum of Art is pleased to announce a series of purchase awards to participating artists in the **1619 / 2019** exhibition. Organized by the Muscarelle Museum of Art to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first documented Africans in Colonial Virginia, this exhibition addresses the complex experience of slavery and forced migration through the eyes of African American and Native American contemporary artists.

The **1619 / 2019** exhibition is comprised of forty-five works by thirty artists in a variety of media and techniques, including weaving, quilting, sculpture, mosaic, painting, drawing, photography and prints. The Muscarelle is pleased to announce that **1619 / 2019** has been extended to **January 26, 2020** due to the positive response from the university and greater community.

Artists from across the country were invited to submit art in response to the **1619 / 2019** theme of the exhibition, which was augmented by works from the Museum's permanent collection. Today, the Muscarelle is pleased to announce purchase awards for five artists, including first place for **Sonya Clark** for her woven cloth work *Gele Kente Flag*. The second place prize has been awarded to **Delita Martin** for her mixed-media work *Carry This In Remembrance Of Me*. A third place award was granted to **Preston Jackson** for his bronze work *Protecting Assets*. Honorary mention prizes were tied with purchase awards going to **Nell Painter** for her Conté crayon and graphite on paper work entitled *If God Has Bestowed Beauty* and to **Dayon Royster** for his serigraph works *Tough Guys* and *Black Cloud*.

David Brashear, Muscarelle Museum of Art Interim Director stated, "The works in this exhibition communicate a complexity of experience, addressing both the past and present. We are fortunate to have such powerful art for our visitors to experience and reflect upon." He continued, "The works selected for purchase awards by this talented group of African American artists are important additions to the Museum's permanent collection and stand strong alongside recent acquisitions by **Cara Romero**, **Bear Allison** and **Danny Simmons**, who are also featured in the exhibition."

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About the Muscarelle Museum of Art

The Muscarelle Museum of Art is located on the campus of William & Mary at 603 Jamestown Road in Williamsburg, Va. For more information, call 757.221.2700 or visit muscarelle.org. Admission is **FREE** for this exhibition. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Saturday and Sunday, 12 PM to 4 PM (**check muscarelle.org for holiday hours**).