

## **For Immediate Release**

Erin Kendrick, *The Hotelmen*  
November 4 to December 2, 2022

October 13, 2022 – The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum will proceed in its Fall 2022 season with a solo exhibition by Jacksonville-based artist Erin Kendrick, entitled *The Hotelmen*. The exhibition will be on view from November 4 to December 2, 2022. The opening reception will be held on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8pm, in conjunction with First Friday Artwalk. Special guest Dr. Gylbert Coker, an African American art historian, curator, and museum director who has worked to establish Black artists and art in the canon of American art will join the artist in conversation during the reception, starting at 6pm.

Much of Kendrick's work evolves out of extensive historical research. A native to Jacksonville, during her residency at the CEAM last spring, the artist explored the Negro baseball league's presence in St. Augustine, specifically the Cuban Giants, and their connection to the Hotel Ponce de Leon. Kendrick's research and engagement with some of the Black historical sites of St. Augustine and present-day Flagler College have both inspired and informed her new body of work for *The Hotelmen*.

The exhibition will feature new mixed media works on paper, paintings, and installation. She has created six new pennant flag portraits of renowned players from the Negro leagues at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including Frank Thompson who was a part of the Cuban Giants team as well as head waiter at the Hotel Ponce de Leon. These works are rendered in a style characteristic of Kendrick's body of work; portraits imbued with colorful layers, that are simultaneously painterly and graphic. Three new paintings on paper juxtapose historical images of the cake walk set against fluid black contour portraits of baseball players in motion. The artist represents the establishment of Negro league baseball as an intentional economic endeavor, as opposed to a recreation for hire in the post-Civil War socio-political climate. The Cuban Giants were among the first generation of Black people freed by law. Through these works that exam contemporary as well as historic spectatorship, Kendrick invites us to engage with the history and legacy of Black representation and engagement to our local community.

### **About the Artist:**

Kendrick's work has been included in solo and group exhibitions at venues such as Yellow House, Jacksonville; Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville; Florida State College at Jacksonville; Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum, Port Elizabeth, South Africa; New Orleans African American Museum; and the Ritz Theater and Museum, Jacksonville, among others. She is the recipient of the Jackie Cornelius Art Residency (Douglas Anderson School of the Arts), the Lift Every Student Artist-In-Residence, and the Community First Foundation Art Ventures Individual Artist grants. She is currently the Director of Education and Lead Visual Art Instructor at Jacksonville Arts & Music School and teaches in the Department of Visual Art at Flagler College. In 2019 was named the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's 2019 Art Educator of the Year. Kendrick maintains a studio at CoRK Arts District in Jacksonville, Florida.

This program is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and a grant from the Dr. JoAnn Crisp-Ellert Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum is an accessible building. If you are a person with a disability and need reasonable accommodations, please contact Phil Pownall at 904-819-6460. Sign Language Interpreters

are available upon request with a minimum of three days' notice. The museum's hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday, 12 to 4pm, while classes are in session.

For further information on our programming, please visit the website at [www.flagler.edu/ceam](http://www.flagler.edu/ceam), or contact Julie Dickover at 904-826-8530 or [crispellert@flagler.edu](mailto:crispellert@flagler.edu).