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### **NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

DULUTH, GA (January 25, 2018) – The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning is excited to present *The Future of America*, a group exhibition featuring work by CYJO, Ruth Dusseault, Lauren Greenfield, Rania Matar, Forest McMullen, Bryan Melts, and Darnell Wilburn; curated by Rebecca Dimling Cochran.

These seven artists serve as cultural anthropologists of our time, each creating a substantial body of work focusing on various segments of American youth. Greenfield looks at the culture of money and how it affects teens growing up in the city of Los Angeles while Matar's photographs show how adolescent girls define themselves within the confines of their own bedrooms. Bryan Meltz has followed a Somali refugee family in the Atlanta area for eleven years while CYJO has photographed and interviewed over 200 people of Korean descent who now live across the globe. Dusseault has traveled the southeast capturing youth who participate in the ever-growing paintball industry while Forest McMullen has traveled similar terrain looking at African American rodeo riders. Wilburn has photographed a wide group of Atlanta youth, each of whom has lost a parent at a young age.

Brought together at the Hudgens, these works speak to the pressures, fears, pleasures and joys of kids growing up in America today. "It is my hope," says Cochran, "that the exhibition helps remind us that as we make changes to environmental, economic, educational, health care and immigration policies, we remember that we are responsible for all these young citizens of the United States. We are the guardians of their future."

"We are thrilled to host such a timely and poignant exhibition here at The Hudgens. It's been a pleasure realizing this exhibition with our curator, Rebecca Dimling Cochran. We are both eager to share *The Future of America* with the Gwinnett and greater Atlanta community," says Angela Nichols, Director of Exhibitions at The Hudgens.

About the Curator: Rebecca Dimling Cochran is a freelance curator and critic based in Atlanta. She has organized exhibitions for the High Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, the Fine Arts Gallery at Emory University, the Atlanta College of Art Gallery and The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highands, NC. Her criticism has appeared in Art in

America, Sculpture, Art Papers, Artforum.com and ArtsATL.com. She also serves as the curator of the Wieland Collection, a position she has held for fifteen years.

**Info at a glance:**

**Also on view:**        *The Nature of Wood*  
                              *Woodturning by Wes Jones*

*Selected Works from the Permanent Collection*

**Feb 17 – Apr 28**        *The Future of America*  
                              *Curated by Rebecca Dimling Cochran*

**Sat Feb 17**            *Opening Reception 2-4pm*

**Sat Mar 3**             *Family Day 11am – 1pm*  
                              *Featuring Woodturning demonstrations by Wes Jones*

**Sat Mar 17**            *Artist Talk with Wes Jones 11am*

**Sat Mar 24**            *Panel Discussion 4pm*  
                              *Moderated by curator, Rebecca Dimling Cochran*  
                              *Featuring: CYJO, Ruth Dusseault & Darnell Williams*

**Feb 23,**                *Toddler Fridays 10:30am - noon*  
**Mar 30 & April 27**

Hudgens Center Gallery Admission is free of charge courtesy of Holtkamp Heating & Air.

**About the Hudgens**

The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning is a non-profit organization that has been focused on the arts since its establishment in 1981. The Hudgens' mission is to bring art lovers, leaders and learners together through quality programs and exhibits. That mission is accomplished through visual arts initiatives, such as year round fine art exhibits and classes for all ages, and community arts initiatives, which reach out to underserved populations.

The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning is located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Bldg. 300, in Duluth, in the Infinite Energy Center complex. For more information about art exhibitions, events and classes at The Hudgens, please visit the website at [www.thehudgens.org](http://www.thehudgens.org) or call 770-623-6002.