CREATING MATTER: THE PRINTS OF MILDRED THOMPSON
AT THE CARLOS MUSEUM
January 17 through May 17, 2015

ATLANTA, GA (December 17, 2014)–Creating Matter: The Prints of Mildred Thompson will explore the work of Mildred Thompson and her interest in creation and the cosmos. Born in 1936, Thompson trained formally in the United States at Howard University and at the Art Institute of Hamburg, Germany, among other notable institutions. When she returned, she was discouraged to find that galleries in New York City were reluctant to feature the work of an African-American artist. One gallery even suggested that Thompson hire a white woman to impersonate her in public. She returned to Germany during the 1960s as a result. In 1986 Thompson settled in Atlanta, where she became editor of Art Papers and taught at several area institutions. The city would be her home for the rest of her life.

Thompson’s work is heavily influenced by African textiles, American jazz, European classical music, and German Expressionism. Most of her early work was figural, but she moved toward total abstraction in the 1970s. The prints in this exhibition are mature works from the 1980s onward. They are full of movement, yet deliberately mysterious, revealing Thompson’s interest in quarks, string theory, astronomy, and the Jungian “collective unconscious.” Thompson died in 2003, leaving behind a massive and important body of work that remains relatively unexplored in the United States.

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Mildred Thompson: Photo © the artist. Please contact mccm.collections.services@emory.edu for terms of use.

Creating Matter is being held in conjunction with Emory University’s Creation Stories Project, which explores the timeless questions of origin, creation, and intent that have served as a catalyst for human thought and creativity. The exhibitions and educational programs in conjunction with the Creation Stories Project have been made possible by generous grants from the Thalia N. and Chris M. Carlos Foundation, Inc.; the Thalia and Michael C. Carlos Foundation, Inc.; the Massey Charitable Trust; and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

About the Michael C. Carlos Museum
The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets art and artifacts from antiquity to the present in order to provide unique opportunities for education and enrichment in the community, and to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research at Emory University. The Carlos Museum is one of the Southeast’s premier museums with collections of art from Greece, Rome, Egypt, Near East, Nubia, the Americas, Africa, and Asia, as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present. For location and admission information, visit carlos.emory.edu/visit/hours-admission.

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