



**Office of Cultural Affairs  
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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Charcoal Drawings on display at the Sandler Center *Sandler Center Art Gallery Showcases Artist Andi Helfant-Frye***

(VIRGINIA BEACH, VA) – Andi Helfant-Frye’s large figurative charcoal drawings are the latest artwork to be featured in the Sandler Center Art Gallery and can be seen from March 1 through April 30, 2012.

A native of New York City, Helfant-Frye, currently a professor and gallery director at the Art Institute of Virginia Beach, is also an adjunct-faculty member at both Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University. Before emerging as a fine artist, she previously pursued a career in music performance, recording as a guitarist and vocalist. Helfant-Frye then went on to pursue a successful career as a real estate broker. Breaking her 25-year absence from visual arts, she received her Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts and her Master’s in Visual Studies at ODU in 2005.

In the series exhibited at the Sandler Center Art Gallery, she moves away from her usual extensive use of color and traditional landscape subject matter. Instead, she re-visits more traditional media in mostly achromatic soft charcoal to capture the personalities and attitudes of her subjects by examining, “...how they carry themselves and wear their outer armor.”

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“I love feeling the potential color in these works without it actually being there,” she continues.

Helfant-Frye is the recipient of numerous awards at both the Virginia Beach Boardwalk Art Show and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Art Show. Notably, she has exhibited at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art in Virginia Beach and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Her artwork can also be seen in galleries throughout Virginia, North Carolina and Florida.

Come see her large-scale yet intimate charcoal drawings at the Sandler Center Art Gallery from March 1 through April 30, 2012. The gallery is free and open to the public on Monday through Friday from 10am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 2pm or during any performance at the Sandler Center. There will be an opening reception held on Thursday, March 8 from 6pm to 8pm celebrating the Sandler Center Art Gallery’s newest exhibit. The reception is free and open to the public and Ms. Helfant-Frye will attend to speak about her artwork.

**ABOUT THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH’S OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS:** The City of Virginia Beach Office of Cultural Affairs fosters an environment that encourages innovation and excellence within the local arts community. Cultural Affairs, along with the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission, funds programs and services that build community and transform lives by enhancing enjoyment, understanding and participation in the arts. For more information on the Office of Cultural Affairs, visit [www.vbgov.com/arts](http://www.vbgov.com/arts). For more information on the Sandler Center Art Gallery, visit [www.sandlercenter.org/artgallery](http://www.sandlercenter.org/artgallery).

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