North Carolina to stage first show on American South

Art and music will be the focus of the first exhibition to explore the cultural output of the American South. “Southern Accent” will include work by around 60 artists such as radarlife Bailey, Romare Bearden, William Eggleston, Deborah Grant, Dario Robleto, Hank Willis Thomas, Kara Walker and Jeff Whetstone. There will also be an extensive listening library, where visitors can hear a range of music from performers from James Brown, Elizabeth Cotton and Dolly Parton to Prada Marfa, R.E.M. and Outkast. “We want to demonstrate what a tremendous impact the Southeastern US has had on American culture,” says Trevor Schoonmaker, the chief curator at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in North Carolina, where the exhibition is scheduled to open on 1 September 2016 (until 8 January 2017). The artist and musician Harrison Haynes has worked with Schoonmaker on the music library, while the exhibition is being co-organised by Schoonmaker and Miranda Lash, a curator at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky, the second venue for the show (additional venues have yet to be confirmed). “The South is a huge and contested topic and we don’t want to overly intellectualise it or define it,” says Schoonmaker, who was recently appointed artistic director of the 2017 Prospect New Orleans Triennial. “We want to create a feeling when you step into the show of a shared sensibility, and hope that the diverse range of artistic perspectives will question prevailing mythologies of the South and create a composite portrait of Southern identity.” Above, Hank Willis Thomas’s Blackighthouse Space, 2012. C.B.

Marfa shines a spotlight on reclusive artist

2015 is the year of Robert Irwin! This spring, the Chinati Foundation is due to break ground on the reclusive artist’s highly anticipated installation in Marfa, Texas, while Pace Gallery is expected to announce plans for a catalogue raisonné. The artist helped to design the master plan for Elmgreen & Dragset’s Prada Marfa, which was installed inside the Chinati Foundation in 2005, and the New York museum is due to open its first exhibition of his work this summer (13 March–16 May 2015). Irwin is set to recreate the monumental installation’s Homage to the Square, a series of scorn chambers that he originally designed for Dia’s exhibition space in Manhattan in 1998. In Marfa, he is working to transform a former army hospital on Chinati’s campus into a 10,000 sq. ft, horseshoe-shaped installation that progresses from light to dark. Windows installed at eye level will reveal a ring of landscape and a vast expanse of the Texan sky. The foundation has raised nearly 75% of the $5m budget for the project in just four months, from patrons including John Walsh, the former director of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and the oil executive Vernon Faulconer. The monumental installation, which has been in the works for 14 years, is the first freestanding structure both designed by Irwin and devoted exclusively to his work. Jenny Moore, the director of the foundation, told patrons at a presentation last month: “As Bob likes to say, at 84 years old, there is a sense like the present to get things done.” J.H.

Artist parks work outside Texan gallery’s door

The Los Angeles-based artist Sam Falls has decommissioned a Ford Ranger pick-up truck and planted the bed with succulent plants as part of his solo exhibition (13 March–16 August) at the non-profit gallery Ballroom Marfa in Texas. Falls, who has just completed a residency in Marfa, will have until