



## Neill-Cochran House Museum

2310 San Gabriel Street  
Austin, Texas 78705-5014

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 15-May 3, 2020

### Neill-Cochran House Museum presents: **If These Walls Could Talk**

This spring the Neill-Cochran House Museum is proud to host the major history and artistic collaboration *If These Walls Could Talk*. The show will place ceramicist Ginger Geyer's modern porcelain sculpture into the historic spaces of the museum.

Geyer in collaboration with actor Jennifer Cumberbatch will use the artwork as a launch pad for a series of conversations between two adolescent girls, Chlora and Ruby Virginia. The two girls, one white and one black, will highlight similarities and dissonances between past and present, high art and material culture, and experiences and treatment one would have received in a home like the NCHM Greek Revival-style mansion depending on race, class, gender, and socio-economic status through time.

Cumberbatch will perform a series of one-woman shows inspired by Geyer's artwork during the run of the exhibition.

#### **Performance Dates:**

February 6: Rise & Shine

February 15: Bus Tour with Shoebox Picnic

February 27: "Black Builders of a White City: Erecting Race in Early Austin" (part of the NCHM Modern Times Lecture Series)

March 8: Oratory Sunday

March 26: Make America Sing Again

May 1: Ghost of Robert E. Lee

Both guided and self-guided touring options of the art installation will be available, though we recommend a guided tour with a trained interpreter. Guided tours will be offered at 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00 Wednesday-Sundays. For more information, or to schedule a tour, please [click here](#).

The Neill-Cochran House was built in 1855 by Abner Cook, who also designed and built the Governor's Mansion and many other historic Greek Revival structures in Austin. The Neill-Cochran House Museum has an important story that dovetails with the early history of Austin and the fall of the Confederacy. Open to the public Wednesday-Sunday from 11:00AM to 4:00PM, the NCHM is Abner Cook's least altered and most accessible building and is proud to offer visitors a glimpse of Texas history.

This exhibit is sponsored by The Still Water Foundation, Applied Materials, City of Austin Cultural Arts Division, and Women and Their Work.



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For more information, or to cover *If These Walls Could Talk*, please visit [nchmuseum.org/if-these-walls-could-talk](http://nchmuseum.org/if-these-walls-could-talk) or contact Karen Kincaid Brady, NCHM Programming Director, at 512.478.2335 or by e-mail at [info@nchmuseum.org](mailto:info@nchmuseum.org). **Press Preview January 16, 2020 at 11AM, at the NCHM.**