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GALLERY SUPERSTAR DECAMPS CHAPEL HILL FOR DOWNTOWN DURHAM'S VENABLE CENTER

Somerhill Gallery's move to Scientific Properties' stable of art & commerce tenants signals downtown Durham's ascendance as emergent culture capital of the Southeast

DURHAM, NC, (May 5, 2008) – Somerhill Gallery, one of the most prominent art galleries in the Southeast, is taking up residence in downtown Durham's esteemed **Venable Center**. The move is widely heralded as signaling downtown Durham's arrival as the foremost preferred location in the region for arts, culture, and cutting-edge creative class businesses. Scientific Properties continues to build its specialty practice of working with established and emerging cutting-edge, creative concepts, both locally and nationwide to anchor its signature historic, adaptive re-use and new construction city center properties.

Along with the paintings, sculptures and photographs that will be shown in the gallery, the space itself will be a work of art. Somerhill's new high-visibility location adjacent to the Durham Bull's ballpark and American Tobacco will be designed by Phil Szostak, celebrated architect of the new Durham Performing Arts Center, and will feature 14 foot ceilings with over 40 skylights, white oak floors, separate art glass and photography galleries, and a sculpture court with an architectural water feature.

Venable Center, also home to the *Independent Weekly*, the region's leading arts and entertainment weekly, is in the heart of the Durham's vibrant arts and culture scene, close to **401 Arts** and **Golden Belt** - additional arts-focused developments within Scientific Properties' portfolio of creative class properties.

401 Arts, at 401 Foster Street, another Scientific Properties development, currently houses *Branch Gallery*, *Bull City Arts Collaborative*, *Piedmont Restaurant*, and *Horse & Buggy Press*.

Scientific Properties' much anticipated **Golden Belt**, at 807 East Main Street, will open this summer, becoming home to over 30 mid-career artists working in a wide variety of media who will be both creating and selling their work on site, as well as featuring live/work lofts, unique local restaurants, specialty retail and gallery space, special event space and a live music venue.

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About Scientific Properties

Scientific Properties, based in Durham, North Carolina, is a real estate development firm that specializes in significant urban mixed-use, new construction and historic adaptive re-use projects and undertakes development projects that recognize and address community needs and aspirations. The firm's current development portfolio encompasses over two million square feet of mixed-use, office, residential, retail, restaurant, entertainment, and laboratory/R&D space.