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***Lasting Legacies: Ellsworth Ausby, Xenobia Bailey, Honey Kassoy and Olga Kitt
Opens Wednesday, February 4th at BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos***

(January 9, 2015 — Bronx, NY) Longwood Arts Project, the visual arts program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), presents ***Lasting Legacies: Ellsworth Ausby, Xenobia Bailey, Honey Kassoy and Olga Kitt*** (pictured clockwise). *Lasting Legacies* highlights the work of four dynamic elder artists from BCA's Creating A Living Legacy (CALL) Program. This exhibition features their sculptures, paintings, graffiti and textile art. BCA CALL is an outgrowth of the Joan Mitchell Foundation CALL program that connects elder artists with BCA-trained Legacy Specialists who teach CALL artists how to document and archive their life's work.



Meet the artist and the curator at the opening reception on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, from 5:00-9:00pm, in conjunction with the Bronx Trolley: First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour, at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, room C-190, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street. The exhibition is on view in Longwood's Main Gallery through May 6, 2015. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Ellsworth Ausby's (1942-2011) work explored the relationship of man and the universe in geometric abstractions. Ellsworth Ausby lived and worked in Brooklyn and taught at the School of Visual Arts from 1979 until his death in 2011. He has exhibited at the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi and Port of History Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ausby was American Representative at "FESTAC" Lagos, Nigeria. He was also a popular art instructor with a BFA from Pratt. His paintings were exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Boston Museum of Fine Art; the National Museum of Fine Arts, Lagos Nigeria.

Xenobia Bailey studied ethno-musicology at the University of Washington where she became fascinated by the craftsmanship and sounds of the cultures of Africa, Asia, South America, and India. She later studied Industrial Design at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute where she was introduced to lifestyle possibilities through design. NYC-based Bailey is best known for eclectic crocheted hats, large-scale mandalas and tents consisting of colorful concentric circles and repeating patterns. Her designs draw influences from Africa, China, and Native American and Eastern philosophies, with undertones of the domestic aesthetic of her mother and other African American rural and urban homemakers and of the 1960s. Her work is in the permanent collections at Harlem's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Museum of Art and Design (NYC) and the Allentown Art Museum (PA).

Honey Kassoy (1917-2013) was a sculptor and painter with a career spanning 74 years. She graduated from Pratt Institute in 1936 and earned degrees from Columbia Teachers College in 1938 and 1939. Throughout her career she has received a number of awards for sculpture, six fellowships from the Virginia Center for Creative Arts and First Prize in Watercolor on Painter's Day at the 1939 World's Fair. Her outdoor sculpture "Maternal Force" is in the permanent collection of NYC's Amalgamated Housing Corporation. Honey was Corresponding Secretary of the US Committee of the International Association of Artists from 1979-1993, held executive positions with New York Artists Equity Association and the American Society of Contemporary Artists and taught art at several educational institutions.

Olga Kitt's interest in art began at the age of 13 when her brother took her to the Museum of Modern Art. This inspired her to take the High School of Music and Art's qualifying exam which included drawing. Those drawings won her first place among the entrants. During the 1950s, Olga was the assistant to Walter Pach when he lectured at the City College of New York. Later, with her Dewitt Clinton High School students, she produced the first comic books ever made by students for students. Copies can be found at the New York Historical Society, the Bronx Historical Society and a number of other institutions. Her books include "Hofmann's Lessons" and "Clinton's Student Cartoonists" and her work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows.

Public Events at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos:

- **Wed, Feb 4, 5-9pm:** Opening Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley
- **Wed, Mar 4, 5-9pm:** Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley
- **Wed, Apr 1, 5-9pm:** First Wednesday Bronx Trolley
- **Wed, May 6, 5-9pm:** Closing Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley

This exhibition is made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, Bronx Tourism Council, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., NYC Council Members Andrew Cohen, Andy King, Melissa Mark-Viverito and James Vacca and members of the Bronx Delegation of the NYC Council.

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