



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Juanita Lanzo, 718-518-6728
juanita@bronxarts.org
Phil Cardone, 718-931-9500 x33
phil@bronxarts.org
www.bronxarts.org

Bronx Council on the Arts and Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos present

BRONX:AFRICA

A Multi-Disciplinary Exploration of the Art, Expressions & Influences of African Cultures



(l.to r.) Eric Orr, *Max Robot Mask*; Lisa DuBois, *Traditional Tribal costumes (cropped)*; Thurston Randall, *Four Warriors (cropped)*; Eto Otigbe, *Ascension or Dude Ascending Staircase*, 2011.

(Bronx, NY – January 4, 2016) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) and Longwood Arts Project @ Hostos Community College invite you to join us for **BRONX:AFRICA**, a four-month celebration of Africa and the Diaspora. **BRONX:AFRICA** will feature contemporary art across disciplines, along with special events around the Bronx and beyond, as well as events hosted by Program Ambassadors to the exhibit. **Exhibition and programs open on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 with an opening reception, and will run through May 4, 2016.** The exhibit will also feature website displays and engagement activities. Visit bronxarts.org for evolving information and share on #BronxAfrica. **BCA will host two press previews on February 2, 2016. RSVP on Eventbrite at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bronxafrica-exhibition-press-preview-meet-artists-and-curators-tickets-20107259354?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=cp&utm-term=listing>.** For information, contact phil@bronxarts.org.

Theme: Our borough is home to major and still-growing populations from across Africa. This vital presence influences and transforms our city. **BRONX:AFRICA** will showcase the art, expressions and influences of African cultures and their impact, as nationals mix and infuse. The exhibition explores and celebrates the influence of contemporary African cultures in the Bronx and reinforces connections among the many peoples of African descent, mixed heritage and migration-dispersion that call the Bronx home.

The Curatorial Team features LeRonn P. Brooks, Exhibition Curator; Atim Annette Oton, Curator of Community Engagement; and Juanita Lanzo, Director of Longwood Arts Project @ Hostos.

Artists include: **In Gallery:** Seyi Adebajo, Laylah Amatullah Barrayn, Howard Cash, Elvira Clayton, Dennis RedMoon Darkeem, Lisa DuBois, Nicky Enright, Janet Goldner, Ijeoma Iheanacho, Imo Imeh, Hakim Inniss, Natasha Johnson, Ahmed Tijay Mohammed, Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Ibou Ndoye, Eric Orr, Eto Otigbe, Thurston Randall, Ibrahima Thiam, Osaretin Ugiagbe, Misra Walker and Tammy Wofsey. And **Online displays by:** Olaniyi Akindiya, Kenneth Anderson, and Ray Felix. Plus a number of public activities throughout the borough will be incorporated with the show.

Curators and Staff say: “The body of work curated reflects the dynamic changes and influences of Africans in the Bronx with echoes of their original homeland and current homeland,” says **exhibition curator LeRonn P. Brooks, PhD**, professor at Lehman College in the Bronx. “It speaks to the intrinsic and eclectic mix of cultures that is the Bronx, but is also the new vista of today’s immigrants – Africans.” And according to **Atim Annette Oton, the Nigerian-American**

- more -

BCA is the Bronx Writers Center • BCA Arts Grants • Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos

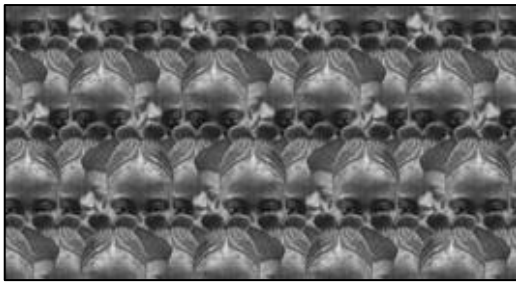
1738 Hone Avenue, Bronx, New York 10461
718.931.9500 • www.bronxarts.org

designer who serves as the exhibition's curator of community engagement, "Like all other immigrants to this country, we come with our culture: our food, our dress/clothing, our hair, our music, our film, our language and our religion. We add to the fabric of America and it adds to us as we transform from African to American." "Like all others," she continues, "we become the hyphenated American in our identities – I am Nigerian-American". **Deirdre Scott, BCA Executive Director** adds, "**BRONX:AFRICA** is about that mix – the intermingling and transformation of cultures especially evident in a city as dynamic as New York. Our borough is home to many immigrant cultures – this is our life, our story, and **BRONX:AFRICA** is ultimately an American story."

BRONX:AFRICA Opening Reception begins at 5:00pm On February 3, 2016, in conjunction with the Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour, from 5:00-9:00pm at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos on the campus of Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. **Admission is FREE and ALL are welcome.**

TWO PRESS PREVIEWS: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 from 2:00-4:00pm and again from 5:00-7:30pm. **Please RSVP by Friday, January 29 at 5:00pm with Phil Cardone at 718-931-9500 x33 or phil@bronxarts.org.**

Images: Available for use by press, please contact Juanita Lanzo at 718-518-6728 or juanita@bronxarts.org.



Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Detail from video "Pain Revisited".
Pain Revisited project is a collaboration with Dyani Douz

2016 Programs and Events (details in development)

- **Wednesday, February 3, 5:00-9:00pm: Opening Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley;**
- Wednesday, February 17, 5:00-8:00pm: **Bronx:Africa Fashion event;**
- **February (date TBD) Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon for Africa – Details to come!;**
- Wednesday, March 2, 5:00-9:00pm: Meet the Artists & Curator Discussion + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley;
- Wednesday, March 16, 5:00-8:00pm: Public Programming: African Spirits;
- Wednesday, March 30, 5:00-8:00pm: Meet the Artists & Curator Discussion;
- Wednesday, April 6, 5:00-9:00pm: Public Programming + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley;
- **April – BCA Writers Center presents Poetry Town Hall Tour** with Ghanaian-born poet Rachel Ansong;
- Wednesday, April 20, 5:00-8:00pm: Panel and Demonstration;
- **April 25-30 – Join us for PEN World voices Event. See bronxarts.org for details;**
- Wednesday, May 4, 5:00-9:00pm: Closing Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley.

Longwood Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 12:00 noon to 5:00pm and by appointment.

Directions: Train: 2, 4 or 5; Bus: BX1, BX2 or BX19; All destinations to 149th & Grand Concourse. Learn more about Longwood Art Gallery@Hostos and its exhibitions, as well as other BCA programs and activities at bronxarts.org.

Funders: This exhibition is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, Congressman José E. Serrano, NYC Council Members Fernando Cabrera, Andrew Cohen, Melissa Mark-Viverito, James Vacca, the Bronx Delegation and BCA members.

###