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Impractical Hats: Indie Crafts Reinvent Everyday Gear
at BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos March 3rd – May 7th

(Bronx – February 19, 2010) In celebration of Immigrant Heritage Week, the Bronx Council on the Arts' (BCA) Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos presents ***Impractical Hats: Indie Crafts Reinvent Everyday Gear***, an exhibition by 19 local artists who are members of BCA's bronxArtworks artisans collective. The opening exhibition takes place on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in conjunction with that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Impractical Hats, curated by Lisa Curran, is a provocative exhibition by Indie craft designers who utilize a wide variety of materials in the construction of hats and hat-related objects in unexpected and unorthodox ways, drawing from cultural as well as contemporary themes.



Featured artists are members of bronxArtworks, a collective of immigrant artisans, indie artists, local artisans, independent designers and the local Bronx outsider artist community. They include Karen Ahn, AJ Sister Black, Aleathia Brown, Leenda Bonilla, Gabrielle Curran, Kim Curran, Diane Davis, Sean Paul Gallegos, Roxe Jordan, Toby Z. Liederman, Francine Marino, Hector Melendez, Lucrecia Novoa, Elizabeth Ortiz, Esther Pagan, Diana Pucci, Joseph Pucci, and Lisa Ulhig.

The Opening Reception for the show will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd, from 5:00 – 9:00pm. The exhibition will be on view in the Reception/Special Projects Area of the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos through May 7th. A closing reception will take place on May 5th in conjunction with that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley event. This show was curated by Lisa Curran, Project Director for BCA's Artisans Initiative.

Artisans Initiative and **bronxArtworks™** showcases, cultivates, and nurtures work of native, immigrant, and Diaspora artisans as well as providing opportunities for public and marketplace exposure. The program offers business services, training, professional development workshops as well as grant and loan opportunities to underrepresented artisans, living and working in the Bronx. For more information on the Artisans Initiative and how you can become a member of BCA's bronxArtworks team, contact Lisa Curran at 718-401-9558, Lisa@bronxarts.org, or visit www.bronxarts.org.

The Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos is the contemporary art center of the Bronx Council on the Arts with the mission to support artists and their work, especially emerging artists from under-represented groups such as people of color and women, through the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Digital Matrix Commissions Program, and public programs that provide opportunities for free and open dialogue.

Gallery Hours: Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am-6:00pm. It is closed on Sundays and major holidays. **Directions to Hostos:** Hostos Community College is located at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. Transportation: IRT 4 & 5, Bx1, Bx19 to Grand Concourse and 149 Street. **For Gallery Information**, call 718-518-6728, e-mail Juanita@bronxarts.org, Kim@bronxarts.org or visit www.bronxarts.org/lag.asp.

Declared an official, annual celebration by Mayor Bloomberg, ***Immigrant Heritage Week*** (April 15 – April 21st) is a unique celebration of the vibrant immigrant cultures, history, and communities found in every corner of the City. Established as Immigrant History Week by Mayor Bloomberg in 2004, this week-long series of activities and events honor the experiences and contributions of the millions of immigrants who have shaped our City for generations.

This exhibition is made possible with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts—Visual Arts Program, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The New York City Department of Small Business Services, Avenue NYC Program, Carnegie Corporation, Krasdale Foods, Scherman Foundation, and Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo. Special thanks to Hostos Community College and the Center for the Arts & Culture for their generous support of the exhibition program.

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