



Media Contacts:

Anne Mannix, amannix@artbma.org
Tarun Bhatnagar, tbatnagar@artbma.org
Sarah Pedroni, spedroni@artbma.org
443-573-1870

CELEBRATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

BALTIMORE, MD (January 30, 2009)— The Baltimore Museum of Art celebrates history and culture inspired by the BMA's world-renowned collection of African-American art with a special **FREE Family Day** on **Sunday, February 8, 2009**, from 1 to 5 pm. Don't miss electrifying hip-hop and Afrofusion dance performances by Illstyle & Peace Productions and Dishibem Traditional Contemporary Dance Group. Also enjoy art making workshops, gallery tours, and grand tales by storyteller Debra Mims. For more information, call 443-573-1832 or visit artbma.org.

- 1:30 pm **Illstyle & Peace Productions** – This multicultural dance company's work focuses on the movement and spirit of old school hip-hop. Their work fuses the movement and spirit of hip-hop with various other styles of dance and delivers a positive message of individual expression.
- 2-5 pm **Family Workshop** – Explore motion through various art activities!
- 2:30 pm **Gallery Tours** – Learn about the BMA's collection of African and African-American art by participating in docent-led tours.
- 3:30 pm **Dishibem Traditional Contemporary Dance Group** – Enjoy an original performance inspired by the BMA's collection of African-American art. Founded by Kwame Opare, Dishibem fuses West African and American dance and music.
- 4:30 pm **Storytelling** – Become enraptured by storyteller Debra Mims.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND AFRICAN ART AT THE BMA

In 1939, the BMA presented one of the first exhibitions of works by African-American artists in the nation, beginning a distinguished record of presenting and collecting African-American art. In recent years the BMA has added more than 30 works by both historical and contemporary artists—including Henry Ossawa Tanner, Lorna Simpson, and Kara Walker. Also featured in the collection are examples of painting and sculpture by Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, and Kerry James Marshall, as well as works on paper by Gordon Parks and Carrie Mae Weems. Among the Baltimore-based artists represented are Tom Miller and Joyce J. Scott.

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One of the first museums to start an African art collection, the BMA has one of the most important collections of African art in the United States, including an unparalleled Female Dance Headdress *D'mba* from the Baga in Guinea. The African art collection now numbers more than 2,000 objects and ranges from the ancient Egypt to contemporary Zimbabwean art. Works of art originate from across the continent and were used in royal courts, public and esoteric performances, and religious contexts, with examples from Bamana, Yoruba, Kuba, Ndebele and many more communities. Highlights include works by acclaimed Liberian carvers Zlan and Sonzanlwon and the legendary brasscaster Ldamie. Recent acquisitions include a throne carved in the court of Lozi King Lewanika of western Zambia and a Hausa Koranic prayer board.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission is free; special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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