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## CELEBRATE AFRICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE AT BMA'S "AFRICAN SPIRIT SERIES"

**BALTIMORE, MD** (November 7, 2008)—Celebrate The Baltimore Museum of Art's collection of African and African-American art with the annual **African Spirit Series**—a colorful extravaganza of visual art, music, dance, and film. Admission to all programs is FREE, unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call 443-573-1832, or e-mail [programs@artbma.org](mailto:programs@artbma.org).

FREE FOR ALL

### **KWANZAA FAMILY DAY**

**Sunday, December 21, 1–5 p.m.**

Feel the beat at the BMA! Celebrate the art of drums and drumming with a FREE day filled with live performances by Fritete African Drum & Dance Ensemble and Lesole's Dance Project, storytelling with drums by Baba Jamal Koram, and a hands-on drum making workshop using recycled objects. Special tours focus on the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, *Kuumba* (Creativity).

FILM

### **AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL NATIONAL TRAVELING SERIES**

**Saturday, January 31 & Sunday, February 1**

View some of the best in African cinema! The BMA hosts this traveling series of screenings of critically acclaimed short-format and feature releases by African directors. All films are FREE and have English subtitles. Arrive early—space is limited.

#### **Saturday, January 31**

##### **1 p.m. — *Come Back to Sudan***

Sudan/USA, 2008, 29 min.

The last time Lado Jurkin, Marbior Mayom, and Deng Dau saw their home and families was when they were eight years old. Years later, accompanied by their adoptive mother, Jean Wood, the three undertake a journey back from Colorado to their villages in war-torn Sudan.

##### **1:30 p.m. — *Shoot the Messenger***

Nigeria/UK, 2006, 100 min.

Joe is a teacher determined to save the black youngsters at his school from a life of gangs and crime. When a minor incident escalates out of control and Joe loses his job, he turns against his community, and hits rock bottom before realizing he has a lot to learn about love and understanding.

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**3:15 p.m. — *Awaiting for Men***

Senegal/Mauritania/Belgium, 2007, 56 min.

In Oualata, a city on the edge of the Sahara desert, three women practice traditional painting by decorating the walls of the city. In a society dominated by tradition, religion, and men, these women unabashedly express themselves freely, openly discussing the relationship between the sexes.

**4:15 p.m. — *Heartlines***

South Africa, 2006, 95 min.

After serving a jail sentence, Manyisa, a young man with a criminal past, is offered a second chance when he is paroled and taken in by a pastor and his family. This new life is threatened when Bra Stone, Manyisa's former crime boss finds him and asks him to repay an old debt.

**Sunday, February 1**

**1 p.m. — *Meteni: The Lost One***

Ethiopia, 2002, 30 min.

Meteni is a young Afar woman with two small children whose husband lets her move to Ethiopia by herself. When she becomes pregnant, she continues her punishing workload with disastrous results.

**1:30 p.m. — *Paris Selon Moussa***

Guinea/France, 2003, 96 min.

The village's water pump is on its last legs, and Moussa is appointed to take the journey to buy a new one in Paris. This humorous and moving film stirred controversy in France and was awarded the Human Rights Award by the United Nations in 2003.

**3:15 p.m. — *Le Clandestin Zaire***

Zaire, 1997, 15 min.

When an Angolan stowaway lands in Lisbon, he learns that the Europe of his dreams may not be the paradise he imagined. His adventures lead him to realize that for an African, Europe provides no escape from hardship.

**3:30 p.m. — *Kinshasa Palace***

Democratic Republic of Congo/France, 2006, 75 min.

The Laplaine family is scattered around Europe and Africa, refugees from the wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is an engrossing study of family displacement and the socially corrosive ramifications of the recent African dispersion.

**4:45 p.m. — *This is My Africa***

African continent/Nigeria/UK, 2008, 47 min.

A project that seeks to change the public dialogue surrounding Africa, hear 18 people's memories and personal perspectives about their Africa and what they hope Africa will be like in 2060.

The African Film Festival National Traveling Series is organized by African Film Festival, Inc., and presented by The Baltimore Museum of Art in partnership with The Center for Africana Studies at The Johns Hopkins University.

FREE FOR ALL

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH FAMILY DAY**

**Sunday, February 8, 1–5 p.m.**

Join us for a celebration of African-American history and culture inspired by the BMA's collection of African-American art. Enjoy performances by Dishibem Traditional Contemporary Dance Group and Illstyle & Peace Productions, take guided tours, explore motion in art through painting and drawing, and become enraptured by Debra Mims' grand tales.

LECTURE

**SOUTH AFRICAN BEADWORK: IDENTITY & POLITICS**

**Saturday, January 17, 2 p.m.**

*FREE*

Learn about the intersections of identity and politics with Gary van Wyk, author of *African Painted Houses: Basotho Dwellings of Southern Africa* and owner of Axis Gallery in New York. This intriguing lecture illuminates how identity and politics manifest visually through South African beadwork.

**WHAT IS BLACK AESTHETICS? WHO NEEDS IT?**

**Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.**

*FREE*

Join Dr. Paul Taylor, Professor of Philosophy at Temple University and author of the forthcoming *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics*, for a discussion on the meaning of black aesthetics in the 20th century and beyond. Arrive early—space is limited.

Presented in partnership with The Center for Africana Studies at The Johns Hopkins University and the Philosophy Department of Morgan State University.

ADULT WORKSHOP

**BEAD PAINTING**

**Saturday, January 17, 4 p.m.**

*FREE for BMA Members*

*\$10 non-Members*

Join BMA Master Teacher Marjorie Anderson for a bead painting workshop. Call 443-573-1832 or e-mail [programs@artbma.org](mailto:programs@artbma.org) for more information and to register. Space is limited.

WRITING WORKSHOP

**ART INTO WORDS: AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART**

**Saturdays, February 28–March 14**

**& March 28–April 4, 1 p.m.**

*\$75 BMA Members*

*\$120 non-Members*

Award-winning author and teacher, William Henry Lewis conducts a writing class stimulated by works of art by African-American artists. Call 443-573-1832 or e-mail [programs@artbma.org](mailto:programs@artbma.org) for more information and to register.

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### **AFRICAN ART COLLECTION AT THE BMA**

The Baltimore Museum of Art has one of the earliest and most important collections of African art in the United States. A major gift from the collection of Janet and Alan Wurtzburger in 1954 marked the beginning of a permanent display of African art at the BMA and assured a significant place for African art within the Museum's growing collection. Now featuring more than 2,000 objects that span from ancient Egypt to contemporary Zimbabwe, the collection includes works from Bamana, Yoruba, Kuba, Ndebele, and many other cultures. The works of art are as diverse in form as they are in function and include headdresses, masks, figures, royal staffs, textiles, jewelry, ceremonial weapons, and pottery. Many pieces are distinguished by their use in royal courts, performances, and religious contexts, and several are internationally known as the best of their type, such as *D'mba*, an unparalleled late 19th- to mid-20th-century Baga female dance headdress from Guinea. Highlights of the collection include an early 20th-century portrait of a woman by acclaimed Liberian carvers Zlan and Sonzanlwon and several figures by the legendary brasscaster Ldamie. Recent acquisitions include a Lozi throne (c.1900) most likely carved in the court of Lozi King Lewanika of western Zambia, a 20th-century Hausa Koranic prayer board, and Theo Eshetu's contemporary light-based video work *Meditations on African Art: Light* (2006).

### **THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, and Vincent van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15th-century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19th-century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country, and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Pacific art. The BMA's sculpture gardens feature a 100-year survey of modern sculpture on nearly three landscaped acres.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

General admission is free; special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and 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](http://artbma.org).

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