



REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM  
of Maryland African American  
History & Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Samantha McCoy

443-263-1815

mccoy@maamc.org

Cherrie Woods

443-263-1812

cherriew@maamc.org

**FASHIONISTA JANUWA MOJA SHARES CULTURAL CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH  
WEARABLE ART AT REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM**

*Art of Adornment Presentation Gives Cultural “Regality Check” during Baltimore Fashion Week*

**July 25, 2011 (BALTIMORE, MD)** – For more than forty years, cultural activist and fashionista Januwa Moja has made it her life’s work to celebrate the rich history of the African Diaspora through the creation of wearable art. The Baltimore native’s wearable art pieces will be on display from Wednesday, August 17 to Sunday, August 21 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. She will also showcase her African-inspired couture during her **“Art of Adornment: Transformation through Textiles” presentation on Saturday, August 20 at 3 p.m.**, as a complement to the museum’s special exhibition *Material Girls: Contemporary Black Women Artists*. Museum admission is required to attend the presentation.

**“Regality Reality”**

Attendees will receive fashion tips and tricks from Januwa, who will demonstrate the inextricable connection between art, culture and fashion. While one may be tempted to label her wearable art “costumes,” she prefers the term regalia, because her creations include authentic fashion of the Diaspora. Moja composes unique combinations of traditional African dress and jewelry to teach lessons about the treasures of natural, organic magnificence. An educator at heart, she scrupulously crafts each one of her pieces to spark thoughtful conversation about the definition of beauty. “The fashion industry has brainwashed us into thinking about beauty in one kind of way; I want to challenge people to go beyond that,” she says.

**A Self-Proclaimed “Material Girl”**

Like the artists in the *Material Girls* exhibition, Moja works with a variety of media, from Kente cloth to cotton, to canvas, to glass, beads and cowry shells in her intricately designed creations. In addition to her wearable art, she has also experimented with paint, yarn, collage, jewelry, mosaic glass assemblage and furniture decoration.

Januwa has traveled the world to learn about the cultures of her ancestors and receives inspiration from Africa, South America, Europe and the Caribbean. A master visionary, she seeks to capture the splendor of diverse cultures and highlight their African roots.

**[MORE]**

### **ABOUT JANUWA MOJA**

A native of Baltimore now based in Washington, D.C., Januwa Moja has exhibited nationally and internationally and has been on the cutting edge of African-inspired wearable arts for over forty years. As a designer/artist, educator and cultural activist, her aesthetic world-view embraces African Diaspora legacies and influence. In 1977, she was selected to be a participant in the historical World Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) held in Lagos, Nigeria. As a member of the National Conference of Artists (NCA) in the early 1990s, she helped raise the profile for designers of African descent by initiating and organizing several groundbreaking national fashion showcases.

### **ABOUT REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM**

*Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture is Baltimore's premier facility highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans with a special focus on Maryland's African American community. A Smithsonian affiliate, the museum is the East Coast's largest African American museum occupying an 82,000 square-foot facility with ample permanent and special exhibition space, interactive learning environments, auditorium, resource center, oral history recording studio, museum shop, café, classrooms, meeting rooms, outside terrace and reception areas. The museum is located near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the corner of Pratt and President Streets. The museum is also accessible on Baltimore's Charm City Circulator Orange and Green Routes. For more information, please call 443-263-1800 or visit the museum's website at [www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org](http://www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org).*

###