



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Reginald F. Lewis Museum Hosts *From Process to Print* Exhibition**

- *An Important Exhibition of Prints by Romare Bearden on National Tour*

**January 7, 2010 – (Baltimore, MD)** The Reginald F. Lewis Museum hosts the exhibition *From Process to Print: Graphic Works by Romare Bearden* from January 16 to March 28, 2010. Organized by The Romare Bearden Foundation, a New York based, public foundation dedicated to the legacy of artist Romare Bearden (1911-1988), this exhibition presents a selected body of prints that examines the ways that Bearden experimented, innovated, and collaborated on his journey toward mastery of the print medium. The exhibition includes over 75 lithographs, etchings, collagraphs, collagraph plates, screen prints, drypoints, monoprints, and engravings, all created over a span of thirty years. The exhibition was curated by Pamela Ford, former program director, at the Bearden Foundation.

*From Process to Print* offers a unique opportunity to examine Bearden's print-making process as he worked and re-worked a particular image, theme or technique; learn about his collaborations with master printmakers; and to understand how key themes and motifs like trains, family life, rituals, urban scenes, jazz and mythology extended his artistic imagination from collage into other media. Included are prints based on collages like the *Odysseus Series* and *Piano Lesson* that he reworked in several media through changes in technique, scale and color and through the use of photographic processes. Also included are two important photoengraving series, *The Train* and *The Family*, and the extraordinary limited edition *12 Trains*. As Grace C. Stanislaus, the former president of the Foundation noted, "For Bearden, the process of making art was as important as the product that resulted. While this is especially true of his collages, for which he is an acknowledged master, it is equally true about his graphic works."

Exhibition components specific to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum include:

- *A cell phone audio tour* featuring notable artists, poets, curators, collectors and scholars discussing Bearden's work or how he inspired them personally. Participants include National Gallery of Art curator **Ruth Fine**; **Ellis L.**

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**Marsalis, III**, a Baltimore-based artist/poet; **Darin Atwater**, founder and artistic director of the Maryland-based Soulful Symphony; and **Juliette Bethea**, a Washington, DC-based art supporter and collector.

- An *interactive art area* in the gallery where children and adults can “Build a Bearden” using textile pieces shaped like trains, guitars, cityscapes, and other iconic images from Bearden’s compositions.
- A *book exhibition* in the gallery featuring over 25 books with Bearden’s art work on the cover (in conjunction with a display at the African American Studies Department of Enoch Pratt Free Library).
- An *original text panel* on “Bearden’s Baltimore” about Bearden’s legacy as an artist in this city.
- An *interactive audio component* featuring excerpts from interviews with Bearden.

“Bearden’s art is timeless and his images of African Americans are full of inspiration. I am thrilled to bring this exhibition to Maryland, a state which boasts both the urban and rural communities you’ll find pictured in Bearden’s art,” says, Dr. Michelle J. Wilkinson, director of collections and exhibitions.

“Romare Bearden’s work is quintessentially 20<sup>th</sup> century America – full of the life and the vibrancy that is its history, while never forgetting the joys of the time or shying from its struggles,” says Dr. David Taft Terry, executive director of the museum. “And,” he adds, “since Bearden made his mark on Maryland – early on as a political cartoonist for the *Afro American*, and later as public muralist – we feel his work says a little something about our state, specifically, who we were.”

A full color 140-page catalogue published and distributed by Pomegranate Communications will be available for purchase and includes: a foreword by Grace C. Stanislaus; a seminal essay by Mary Lee Corlett, Research Associate, Special Projects in Modern Art at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC and interviews with master printmakers and Bearden collaborators, Kathy Caraccio and Mohammed Khalil.

Romare Bearden (1911-1988), an American artist of African American heritage, was honored during his lifetime and posthumously with numerous prestigious awards, publications and exhibitions. Along with representation in important public and private collections, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts and honored with a groundbreaking retrospective exhibition at the National Gallery of Art. A master collagist, Bearden is celebrated today as a preeminent, highly prolific artist of exceptional and multifaceted talents and interests. He was a jazz aficionado, an author of scholarly books, a song writer/lyricist as well an arts activist and an engaged humanist. Bearden incorporated into his art work a rich montage of influences from American, African, Asian and European art and culture and took inspiration from memories and experiences of the rural South, the urban North and the Caribbean.

The Romare Bearden Foundation, a New York based nonprofit organization, preserves, perpetuates and make publicly accessible Romare Bearden's rich artistic and intellectual

legacy through its programs. Beyond the material legacy, which includes Bearden's art, archives and literary works, the Foundation has built its programmatic mission on his legacy of nurturing and supporting the creative and intellectual potential of artists, children and scholars. The national museum tour which will travel to museums throughout the US through 2012 was organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA.

*The exhibition was organized by the Romare Bearden Foundation, New York, NY. Exhibition Tour Organization and Management by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA.*

## **BEARDEN PROGRAMMING**

**January 23, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### **What's Your Story? Art Workshop (Ages 9 to 12)**

Maryland artist Gina Lewis guides youth through the process of storytelling and illustrating their stories using a collage. To register, please call (443) 263-1828.

**\$2 (activity fee) with family membership. Non-members: \$6**

**Saturday, January 23, 2 p.m.**

### **Freedom is the Message – Dr. Floyd Coleman, Howard University**

Dr. Coleman, artist and art historian, discusses the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the works of Romare Bearden, the development of the Spiral group and artists in the Arts Wall exhibition, *Canvassing the Movement*. **Free with museum admission**

**Saturday, February 13, 2 p.m.**

### **Music in Sight, Reflections by a Rhythm Master**

Maryland artist and Howard University Professor, Al Smith, Jr., shares his perspective on "seeing" music and rhythms in Romare Bearden's and other African American artists works. **Free with museum admission.**

**Saturday, February 27, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Ages 6 to 8)**

### **What's Your Story? Art Workshop**

Maryland artist Gina Lewis guides youth through the process of storytelling and illustrating their stories using a collage. To register, please call (443) 263-1828.

**\$2 (activity fee) with family membership. Non-members: \$6**

**Saturday, February 27, 2 p.m.**

### **Dr. Robert Steele, Director of the David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park and Collector of African American prints**

Dr. Steele discusses the cultural significance of the print works by Romare Bearden and other African American artists and the process of collecting African American art prints.

**Free with museum admission.**

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**Thursday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.**

**Romare Bearden and Women as Agents of Change, Authority and Beauty**

Dr. Leslie King-Hammond, the museum's board chair and director of the Center for Race and Culture and at the Maryland Institute College of Art, hosts a lecture that explores the complex and vibrant role that women have played in the work of Romare Bearden. **Free**

**Saturday, March 13, 2 p.m.**

**Allen Edmunds and Mel Hardy, Traditions in Print: The Brandywine Workshop**

Join artist Allen Edmunds and arts enthusiast Mel Hardy in a discussion of the cultural impact of the Brandywine artists. **Free with museum admission.**

**Thursday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.**

**Insights on Romare Bearden with Dr. David C. Driskell**

Artist, educator and art historian David C. Driskell shares personal views on Romare Bearden, the man and his work. **\$8**

**Saturday, March 20, 2:30 p.m.**

**August Wilson on Romare Bearden- Arena Players Readings and Discussion**

The Arena Players present readings and interpretations on the art of Romare Bearden as seen in the plays of August Wilson. **Free with museum admission.**

*Images available upon request*