



MEDIA RELEASE

Media Contact:
Samantha McCoy
443-263-1815
mccoy@maamc.org

THE LEWIS' ARTS WALL SHOWCASES IMAGES OF COMMUNITY STRENGTH IN LATEST EXHIBITION

February 2, 2010 (Baltimore, MD) – The Reginald F. Lewis Museum (The Lewis) presents its latest Arts Wall exhibition *Ulysses Marshall: Storytales* on view **February 10 – June 20**. This exhibition features the works of Maryland-based artist Ulysses Marshall, which draw on his memories of childhood in Georgia.

Marshall credits his mother and grandmother for introducing the “stories/tales” that have taken on a life of their own through his art. Illuminating the unbreakable spirit of individuals who lived through these struggles is Marshall’s goal. In his *Sharecropper* and “*The Black Hand Blues*” Series especially, the artist conveys the pride that sharecroppers Bessie and John Crop, Sr. felt for their family, amidst the continuing cycle of debt to a landowner.

“Marshall’s pictorial style is sometimes reminiscent of Romare Bearden’s works” explains Dr. Michelle Joan Wilkinson, director of collections and exhibitions,. Wilkinson further observes, “Marshall uses images collaged from photographs and expressive colors charged with wrenching emotion to tell his stories, his people’s stories.”

Paying tribute to rural families and ancestral figures, Marshall creates poignant portraits of a community’s strength and survival. He visualizes a world that is black and bluesy, quiet yet bold, seasoned with loss, but ripe with promise. In his artist statement, he offers, “My goal as an artist is to use these storytales as a tool for sharing the plight of the almost forgotten colored people. I wish to preserve the pride, dignity, courage and survival of a people’s journey from slave to slavery to slave. A people whose lives have been bent not broken.”

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum 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. For more information, please call 443-263-1800 or visit the museum’s website at www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org.

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