



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

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MOVING BEYOND THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY AND THE HOLOCAUST AT THE REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

April 20, 2010 (BALTIMORE, MD) — To complement *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, a special exhibition created and circulated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum also hosts ***Transcending History: Moving Beyond the Legacy of Slavery and the Holocaust***, on view April 23 to September 26, 2010. A multimedia exhibition of 16 works of Black and Jewish artists, this exhibition explores the common histories and struggles of their two communities. Works on view in this exhibition reflect upon slavery and the holocaust, and the effects that these horrific episodes have had on the collective psyches of Black and Jewish communities. ***Transcending History*** highlights the progressive attitudes and resilience of Black and Jewish communities, engaging the challenges that they face every day.

What does moving beyond the legacy really mean? How can these two communities work together to improve the lives of people today? The art works channel both the history and future of Black and Jewish experience, exploring the themes of agony, displacement, exploitation, and resilience.

“Blacks and Jews both have profound legacies of displacement. Yet, what is so special about this exhibition is that it looks at displacement as a starting point, not an end. These artists offer new narratives about Black and Jewish identity. The works capture a transcendent spirit that soars beyond all boundaries,” says Dr. Michelle Joan Wilkinson, director of collections and exhibitions.

Organized by the Idea Coalition, this exhibition debuted as a juried exhibition of over 30 artists at Vivant Art Collection in Philadelphia in February 2010. Selected pieces of the

original exhibition are traveling nationally. The featured artworks are in various mediums, including painting, photography, and sculpture.

About The Idea Coalition

The Idea Coalition is a group of successful Black and Jewish young professionals in Philadelphia with two goals in mind: (1) bringing together the Black and Jewish communities in Philadelphia and beyond, and (2) making Philadelphia a better place to live, work and play. The Idea Coalition accomplishes these goals through initiatives focusing on common interests such as arts and education.

Vivant Art Collection

Vivant Art Collection is a cultural art gallery located on Gallery Row in the heart of the Historic District of Old City, Philadelphia. Vivant features art from the African, Latin and Caribbean Diaspora, specializing in Haitian art, African masks and Island ceramics. The mission of Vivant is to educate, entertain and enlighten its guests through visual art and to empower them with the stories and messages of indigenous cultures.

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. 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.

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