

**News Release**  
Public Information  
Department

December 2003

## **The Brooklyn Museum of Art to Celebrate Black History Month with a Wide Range of Fun and Informative Public Programs**

February is Black History Month, and to celebrate, the Brooklyn Museum of Art will present a variety of public programs ranging from movies and concerts to lectures and storytelling in the galleries. All programs are free with Museum admission except *First Saturday*, which is completely free.

The celebration begins on **Sunday, February 1, from 3 to 5 p.m.**, when *Music Off the Walls* will present “**African Diaspora.**” In this program, musicians from the **Brooklyn Philharmonic** examine African musical traditions that have inspired composers of all races. This concert will be preceded by a 2 p.m. gallery talk in the Museum’s Arts of Africa galleries. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Brooklyn Philharmonic at (718) 622-5838 or visit [www.brooklynphil.com](http://www.brooklynphil.com).

The Black History Month celebration continues during *First Saturday*, the BMA’s **free** program of art and entertainment offered on the first Saturday of every month. On **Saturday, February 7, at 8 p.m.**, BMA student guide **Karen Leon** discusses African American imagery in the Museum’s collections.

On **Sunday, February 22, from 3 to 5 p.m.**, *Music in the Galleries* will present “Africa to the Americas.” Noted storyteller and musician Linda Humes takes listeners of all ages on a musical journey from Africa to the Caribbean and the Americas.

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On **Saturday, February 28, from 3 to 5:30 p.m.**, the BMA will present **Spoken Word: “The Other Half,”** one in a monthly series of readings presented at different locations across the borough by the John Oliver Killens Writers Workshop. Readings by participants in this premier workshop for writers of color reflect Brooklyn’s multi-cultural tapestry and often include book-signings by authors.

Finally, on **Sunday, February 29, from 3 to 6 p.m.**, ***Movies at the Museum*** will present an afternoon of short films on the African American experience, showcasing the archives of Third World NewsReel, one of the nation’s preeminent independent distributors of film and video by and about people of color.

Throughout the month of February, the Museum will offer audio tours of the **Arts of Africa Galleries**. The audio tour includes a variety of perspectives on African art by speakers including William Siegmann, Chair of the Museum’s Arts of Africa and the Pacific Department; Rowland Abiodun, John C. Newton Professor of Fine Arts and Black Studies at Amherst College; Deborah Willis, Professor of Photography and Imaging at New York University; and Myrah Brown Green, quilt artist and BMA Museum guide. The tour explores nineteen works of African art and features an introduction and narration by BMA Director Arnold L. Lehman. The tour is \$3 (\$2 for Members) and also includes tours of the *American Identities: A New Look* and *Egypt Reborn: Art for Eternity* galleries.

In addition to the Black History Month programs, the BMA will present the **St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble** in **“Baroque & Beyond: Musical Traditions”** on **Sunday, February 8, at 2 p.m.** The program explores the transition from the Baroque to the Classical era with Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, C. P. E. Bach’s “Hamburg” Symphonies, works by J.C. Bach and Pergolesi, and Haydn’s Symphony no. 7. The concert is followed by a free 30-minute “Making Connections” gallery talk hosted by museum educators - a lively and informal discussion of historical, social, thematic, and aesthetic connections between classical music and fine art. For more information, or to purchase concert tickets, call St. Luke’s at (212) 594-6100 or visit [www.orchestraofstlukes.org](http://www.orchestraofstlukes.org).

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**Media Contacts: (718) 638-5000, ext. 330, 331, 334, 354**

*www.brooklynmuseum.org*

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Admission:**

Contribution \$6; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$3. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

#### **Directions:**

**Subway:** Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. **Bus:** B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

#### **Museum Hours:**

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.