



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIVING WITH ART: Modern and Contemporary African American Art from the Alitash Kebede Collection

THE LSU MUSEUM OF ART

January 27 – May 6, 2007



BATON ROUGE, La. — The LSU Museum of Art in the Shaw Center for the Arts is presenting *LIVING WITH ART: Modern and Contemporary African American Art from the Alitash Kebede Collection*. The exhibition opens at LSU MOA on January 27, 2007, and is organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, California. *Living with Art* features over seventy works by some of the most important 20th-century African American artists, including Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Sam Gilliam, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Betye Saar and Alma Thomas, among others. Stretching from the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s through today, this exhibition of national stature and scope highlights many of the artists featured in the September 2003 *Art News* article “The Rise of African American Art.”

Living with Art reflects many key themes throughout art history, from portraiture and landscapes to non-objective, abstract imagery. The exhibition highlights works from the collection of Ethiopian-born, Los Angeles-based collector Alitash Kebede. Kebede was

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exposed to art when as a teenager she attended the exhibition of Ethiopian-born modern painter Skunder Boghossian in Addis Ababa. During the 1970s Kebede's intrigue with art led her to minor in studio art at Lindfield College in Oregon. In 1982, Kebede had an opportunity to meet Boghossian in Washington, D.C., where she purchased one of his paintings, starting her collection.

While Kebede's collection is culturally specific, her collecting outlook is international. *Living with Art* is an ever-evolving experience that grows and is shaped by the collector's experiences and personal relationship with what is collected.

Among the businesses and organizations supporting this extraordinary exhibition are Cox Communication – Greater Louisiana, Entergy Louisiana, Clear Channel Radio Baton Rouge, LSU Alumni Association, Baton Rouge Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, The Advocate, City Social Magazine, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, 100 Black Men in Partnership with YWCA, Office of the Mayor, Tiger Athletic Foundation, The Riverside Reader, and Capital One Bank.

Education Programs:

Location (unless otherwise stated): LSU MOA, Paula Garvey Manship Floor (fifth), Shaw Center for the Arts. Fee (unless otherwise stated): Free for LSU MOA members, all others free with general museum admission.

MLK Day of Service

Sunday, Jan. 28, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. \$3 discounted admission for MLK Day of Service volunteers. On Saturday, January 27, over 250 volunteers will participate in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service, sponsored by the LSU Office of Multicultural Affairs. On Sunday, January 28, to honor their commitment to Dr. King's principles of volunteerism and service, the LSU Museum of Art will offer \$3 admission to participants wearing their commemorative T-shirts.

Gallery Talk: Alitash Kebede

Sunday, Jan. 28, 3:00 pm. What do you get when you combine a generous contributor to the arts, her fabulous collection and personal stories about the artists themselves? An afternoon you won't want to miss! Join us for a gallery talk by collector Alitash Kebede as she discusses the art and artists from the exhibition *Living with Art*.

Step Demonstration

Saturday, Feb. 3, 4:00 pm.

Location: Atrium Plaza, Shaw Center for the Arts. An African American tradition, "stepping" is a form of dance using complex, synchronized body movements that combine elements of military drills, contemporary jazz and hip-hop styles. In stepping, the body is used as a drum clapping; slapping hands against various parts of the body and foot stomping produce intricate rhythms for the dance.

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Evening for NPHC

Saturday, Feb. 3, 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

LSU MOA hosts National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities, undergraduate and graduate members, as our guests at the *Living with Art* exhibition.

YWCA's Dialogue on Race

Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

Over the past 11 years, more than 1,000 Baton Rougeans have taken part in YWCA's Dialogue on Race series. Everyone is invited to be a part of this discussion that offers a valuable opportunity for people of diverse cultures to speak frankly about racial issues while learning from each other about the repercussions of prejudice and institutional racism.

Artists Up-Close: Randell Henry

Thursday, Feb. 15, 6:30 pm.

Randell Henry's paintings are often expressions of pure form and color stemming from influences as diverse as early African cave paintings and German Expressionism. The Artists Up-Close program gives museum visitors the unique opportunity to meet and speak directly with this instructor of visual arts at Southern University and practicing artist about his work.

"Royalty" dance troupe performance and instruction

Thursday, Feb. 22, 6:30 pm.

Local dance troupe Royalty demonstrates a unique blend of African, Caribbean and hip-hop styles, combining the old with the new. The audience will join in as Royalty dancers offer guidance on basic steps.

About the LSU Museum of Art, Shaw Center for the Arts

The LSU Museum of Art (LSU MOA) in the Shaw Center for the Arts is Baton Rouge's premier art museum. Located in downtown Baton Rouge overlooking the Mississippi River, it presents rotating, historical and contemporary exhibitions. Selections from the permanent collection are always on display. The 3500-work collection includes seventeenth–twentieth-century American and British portraiture, landscape painting, prints and decorative arts, pre-Civil War New Orleans silver, historical art from India, Japan and South America, and contemporary Inuit sculpture.

General Admission to the museum: Adults - \$8; Seniors (65+), students and LSU faculty/staff (with I.D.) - \$6; Children 5 to 17 - \$4. Children under 5 are admitted free.

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