



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**‘Go Tell It on the Mountain,’ A Provocative Examination of Christianity’s
Role in Fostering Political Action and Social Engagement**
On View at the California African American Museum through April 7, 2013

LOS ANGELES (November 19, 2012). The California African American Museum (CAAM) presents the exhibition “**Go Tell It On The Mountain,**” on view through April 7, 2013, which showcases 24 artists who examine Christianity’s role in fostering political action and social engagement. The exhibition’s curators, Nery Gabriel Lemus and Mar Hollingsworth, utilized James Baldwin’s 1953 novel of the same title, “Go Tell It On The Mountain,” as a point of departure to select a variety of pieces. The selections celebrate faith and, at times contrast, the oppositional forces within Christianity and the underlying tensions of religious control as well as human hypocrisy.

“**Go Tell It On The Mountain**” presents the work of a multicultural group of artists from diverse backgrounds and styles. The artists represented in this exhibit range from internationally known artists to recent graduates of prominent Los Angeles colleges to self-taught artists from the American South whose pieces include installation and conceptual work to wood carvings and assemblage with found objects, paintings, as well as photography. The “prominent” list of artists includes Lynn Aldrich, Edgar Arceneaux, Daphne Arthur, Andrea Bowers, Tracy Brown, Carolyn Castaño, Robert Colescott, Sam Doyle, Todd Gray, Mark Steven Greenfield, Zeal Harris, Caroline Kent, John K. Lawson, Diego Leclery, Nery Gabriel Lemus, Kerry James Marshall, Rosalyn Myles, John Outterbridge, Nikki Pressley, Sulton Rogers, Erika Rothenberg, Sanjit Sethi, Herbert Singleton and Nate Young.

One of the more recognized artists in the exhibition is Kerry James Marshall, who grew up in Watts, Los Angeles and currently resides in Chicago. He addresses Black Power and the Civil Rights Movement with his iconic photographs that reproduce images of Dr. Martin Luther King,

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Jr., as well as Robert and John F. Kennedy.

On a lighter note, Edgar Arceneaux explains his **Miracles and Jokes** series - a group of drawings that hang from the gallery walls, “Vulgarity and spiritual transformation are intertwined. This is why cursing and swearing is rooted in religion. It is an expression of the struggle between the light and dark. In this body of new drawings I use optical illusions fused with texts from jokes with miracles from the Bible. Optical illusions embrace paradox and perpetually defer resolve in the same way that laughter at absurdity acknowledges our finite ability to live with that which we cannot understand.”

Bringing together political action, the union of different religious beliefs and practices, and a celebration of Pan-African identity, Zeal Harris presents her **Kimpa Vita and the Concert of Kongo**, a biographical piece about the leader of a peaceful, grassroots social and spiritual movement that happened around 1700 in Kongo (aka Congo), Africa.

In connection with the “**Go Tell It On The Mountain**” exhibition, CAAM will host a presentation and lecture, facilitated by theologian Dr. Darmise Maris entitled *The Black Church and the Shaping of African American Culture*, Sunday November 25th at 2 p.m.

CAAM exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. CAAM is located at 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. For more information visit www.caamuseum.org or call (213) 744-2024. Parking is \$10 per vehicle and available on 39th and Figueroa streets.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS IN THE CAAM GALLERIES:

“Shared Thread in CAAM’s Courtyard” through December 30, 2012

“African American Military Portraits from the American Civil War: Selected Images from the Library of Congress Collections” through January 20, 2013

“Coloring America: Selections from the California African American Museum’s Permanent History Collection” through January 27, 2013

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“Legacy of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company: More Than a Business”
through March 3, 2013

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans.

Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection of more than 6,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, and a research library containing thousands of volumes, CAAM hosts approximately 13 in-house curated and/or traveling exhibitions and more than 80 public programs each year.

CAAM is located at 600 State Drive in Exposition Park adjacent to Figueroa Street.

The museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sundays 11am-5pm.

Admission and workshop participation is always free. Parking in the adjacent lot is \$10.00 all day at Figueroa & 39th Streets. For more information on the California African American Museum visit www.caamuseum.org or Facebook/CAAMinLA and on Twitter @CAAMinLA.

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