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**THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM EXTENDS IT'S
CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED EXHIBITION SOUL STIRRING: AFRICAN
AMERICAN SELF TAUGHT ARTISTS FROM THE SOUTH**

Now on View at CAAM through June 8, 2014

LOS ANGELES (April 11, 2014) – The California African American Museum (CAAM) has extended its critically acclaimed exhibition, ***Soul Stirring: African American Self-Taught Artists from the South***, through June 8, 2014.

Two new pieces have been added to the exhibition, in which one includes a 1970s painting by Sam Doyle. The exhibition features more than 50 works by renowned African American artists from the southern United States. These late, self-taught artists created evocative artworks without any formal training using a variety of media including cast-off roofing tin, recycled paper, poster board and wood. Their work brilliantly reflects the political, religious, and societal expressions mined from their varied life experiences.

Leroy Almon imbued his carvings with devout faith; Sam Doyle painted Gullah history on cast-off roofing tin; Roy Ferdinand illustrated graphic urban tableaux on poster board; Clementine Hunter rendered rich biographical paintings in oil; Sister Gertrude Morgan painted inspired testaments on recycled paper; Nellie Mae Rowe added delightful titles to her color-filled works; Herbert Singleton carved socio-politically themed wood bas reliefs; and the indomitable Purvis Young artfully renewed his neighborhood.

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The absence of formal training and lack of funds did not stifle our honorees' creative spirits or diminish their commitments to their communities. The originality and intensity of their artworks vividly establishes their indelible contributions to American art. This is the essence of *Soul Stirring*, and clearly defines why the exhibition is one of the highlights of the 2013-2014 Fall Season.

Soul Stirring: African American Self-Taught Artists from the South has received enthusiastic reviews. The *Los Angeles Magazine's* Lyle Zimskind described *Soul Stirring* as a "drive to create... the wonderful *Soul Stirring* exhibition." KCRW's Edward Goldman described it as a "rare sense of truth, authenticity and poetry." *The Hollywood Reporter's* Christopher Wyrick called it "purity and magic" and the *Los Angeles Times'* art critic Christopher Knight said *Soul Stirring* was "a welcome opportunity to see a variety of powerful work...some are classic examples."

"We are extremely proud to present these artists," said CAAM's Executive Director Charmaine Jefferson. "Our guest curator for this exhibition, noted scholar and collector Gordon W. Bailey, selected significant examples of these important artists' works. I am awestruck by the brilliance of the artworks. These artists amazes me with their output and back stories every time I enter the gallery."

From the triumphs of Sam Doyle's *No More and* Herbert Singleton's *Ain't Going Back*, to the personal testimonies of Leroy Almon's *Of Two Worlds*, Sister Gertrude Morgan's *Angels Watching Over Me* and Nellie Mae Rowe's *Peace* and the bold expressions of Roy Ferdinand's *Olive Street* and Purvis Young's *Strugglin'*, are all, in its own way, forceful and compelling.

CAAM is most grateful to the lenders whose generosity and commitment to these artists made this show possible: the American Folk Art Museum, High Museum of Art, House of Blues Collection, Gordon W. Bailey Collection, Blanchard–Hill Collection, Gilbert Collection, and Melinda J. Newman Collection.

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HI-RES IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

CAAM is located at 600 State Drive in Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90037.

ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE! Accessible parking for all of Exposition Park is located at 39th & Figueroa for \$10 per vehicle. For more information on CAAM call (213) 744-7432 or visit www.caamuseum.org. Find CAAM on Twitter and Facebook at www.twitter.com/CAAMinLA and www.facebook.com/CAAMinLA.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) is a state agency charged with researching, collecting, preserving and interpreting for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Collaboratively operating in partnership with its 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum, CAAM houses a permanent collection of over 3,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, and a publicly accessible Research Library containing more than 20,000 volumes.

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