



Media Contact: Terri Dixon
LAGRANT COMMUNICATIONS
323.469.8680, ext. 232
terridixon@lagrant.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAAM Opens the Courtyard Series: ‘Metaphors,’ a Solo
Exhibition Featuring the Los Angeles Based Artist Charles
Dickson**

Opens September 24, 2015 through April 10, 2016



Photo courtesy of Donovan Dickson

LOS ANGELES - September 18, 2015 - The California African American Museum (CAAM) is pleased to announce the latest installation of its Courtyard Series, “Metaphors.” CAAM’s sculpture courtyard is the first visual experience visitors encounter when entering the museum. “Metaphors” will open September 24, 2015 through April 10, 2016.

The exhibition will include five site-specific mix media wall installations from one of Los Angeles’ most prolific African American artists, Charles Dickson. In addition to his studio works, Dickson is an accomplished public artist and his outdoor metal sculpture “Wishing on a Star” has been an iconic and celebrated visual marker on CAAM’s footprint since 2009.

Dickson’s creative process is dynamic in nature and involves transformation by repurposing a variety of materials into various elements, shapes and images to tell a story or make a statement.

Born and raised in South Los Angeles, Dickson’s parents were supportive of his early childhood interest in art. He was introduced to aesthetics through trips to local department stores with his mother, where they would discuss color and design. While Dickson was largely self-taught, he has had the opportunity to study under many known artists including painting and drawing with Charles White, graphic design with Carlos Cobb, and industrial art with Anthony Wilson. Eventually, Dickson became an Artist in Resident at the Watts Tower Arts Center.

--more--

Dickson has been featured in numerous exhibitions at Southern California museums and galleries including the Japanese American National Museum, PUNCH gallery, Museum of African American Art in the Baldwin Hills Plaza, Watts Towers Art Center and John Wayne Airport Gallery. Dickson has also earned a multitude of awards from entities such as the NAACP, U.S. House of Representatives, California Legislature Assembly, and California State Senate amongst others.

CAAM exhibitions and events are free to the public. CAAM is located at 600 State Drive, Exposition Park. Parking is \$10 and located at 39th and Figueroa Streets. Take Los Angeles Metro's Expo Line and exit the Expo Park/USC station. For more information on CAAM visit www.caamuseum.org or call 213.744.7432.

Programs Surrounding Metaphors

Sunday, September 27, 2015

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Reception & walkthrough with artist, Charles Dickson

Exhibition reception: 2:00 – 3:00 pm; Walkthrough: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Saturday, October 10, 2015

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

One-on-One with Charles Dickson – Raising the Conscious Awareness of the Aesthetics in my Community through my Art

As a public artist, Dickson is no stranger to the paperwork and bureaucratic maze an artist has to traverse to solidify an art commission. Aside from prevailing over these challenges, Dickson's real passion is trying to elevate the type of artworks that are reviewed, approved and allowed to be accepted in lower-income neighborhoods. Dickson shares his philosophy of how higher-end designs of artworks can serve to be not only functional, but change the landscape of the community and the vision of its residents and visitors.

Saturday, January 23, 2016

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Panel discussion with sculptors Charles Dickson, Duane Paul and Joe Sims.

These established sculptors will engage in a spirited dialogue about being viable artists/sculptors in the 21st century, and their views and preference on being and/or acknowledged as an "Artist" or "Black Artist."

--more--

ABOUT 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 4,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, and a publicly accessible Research Library containing more than 20,000 volumes.

###