



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

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TWO HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EXHIBITIONS OFFER RELEVANCE FOR BLACK ARTISTS

Promises of Freedom: Selections from the Arthur Primas Collection and Visual Rhythms

LOS ANGELES, April 19, 2012 —The California African American Museum (CAAM) will kick off two highly anticipated exhibitions featuring a wide array of culturally relevant artwork beginning with *Promises of Freedom: Selections from the Arthur Primas Collection*, which opens Thursday, April 19, 2012 and runs through Sept. 2, 2012; and *Visual Rhythms*, which opens April 26, 2012 and runs through July 1, 2012.

Promises of Freedom: Selections from the Arthur Primas Collection will showcase 74 of the 600 pieces from Arthur Primas' personal collection featuring paintings, sculptures and works on paper. The collection covers 150 years of Black culture, dating back to the Haitian Revolution. Among the artists included are Charles White, Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence. Primas will discuss his vision and philosophy of collecting at CAAM on April 21, 2012, at 1 p.m., during the program *Meet "The Guardian" of the Collection*.

The *Visual Rhythms* exhibition will feature recently accessioned art to CAAM's permanent collection, in addition to showcasing pieces that has not been on display for over a decade, as well as objects that have never been on view. The work presents a broad range of styles while departing from a literal, realistic representation. The artists who created these pieces searched for and emphasized movement, shape, line, pattern and color in their compositions.

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The exhibition displays paintings, collages, prints, quilts and other textiles and features artists such as Benny Andrews, Phoebe Beasley and Michael Cummings, as well as artists of other ethnicities such as Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso donated by African American collectors..

All CAAM exhibitions and educational programs are free and open to the public. CAAM is located at 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, 90037. For more information about CAAM, please visit www.caamuseum.org.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS IN THE CAAM GALLERIES:

Justice Balance and Achievement: African Americans and the California Courts, ongoing through May 27, 2012

Women Game Changers, Less Known, Here Celebrated through June 10, 2012

The 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 over 6,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, CAAM also houses a research library containing more than 20,000 volumes, employs and trains high school students through its *Young Docents* program, and hosts in-house curated exhibitions and traveling shows on a regular basis. The museum also tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.



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