



THE AFRICAN UNION DIASPORA AFRICAN FORUM

Providing The Vital Linkage for Diaspora Africans

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WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE to launch AFRICAN AESTHETIC, an exhibition of traditional and fine art and photographs from Africa and the African Diaspora. Organizers will share details of the exhibition, to be held at Addis Ababa University Institute of Ethiopian Studies Museum (IES) from 24-31 May 2013, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity, now African Union.

WHEN: Tuesday 14 May, 2013 at 10:00 am

WHERE: RADISSON BLU HOTEL

The African Union has selected the AFRICAN AESTHETIC exhibition as one of its signature events to express the spirit of Pan Africanism. The event includes the artistic expressions of Africans from the African Diaspora, where Pan Africanism was seeded over a century ago, and where descendants of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, such as Jamaican born Marcus Garvey, forged the Back to Africa Movement. The exhibition hopes to show the similarities of African expressions and experiences at home and abroad through traditional and ceremonial art, while photographs will depict the liberation of African States and struggle to end colonialism. The fine art in the show represents the aspirations and deep feelings of Africans who have experienced trials and triumphs over the past decades, including works from Ethiopians Laureate Afework Tekle, Gebre Kristos Desta, Eskinder Boghosian and Sudanese Dr. Abdulrahman. Angela Fisher and Carol Beckwith, renowned photographers and publishers of African Ark, have also contributed several photos from their vast collection of work in Africa.

The Embassy of Nigeria and Embassy of Ghana have supported the event, stating the importance of the African Diaspora based on the historic contributions to Pan Africanism. The Diaspora Africa Forum, the first Diaspora Mission located in Ghana, is providing books, art and ephemera that best express the African American experience. Other supporters from the Diaspora include Merita Technologies, an Ethiopian based company from Jamaica, and Bob and Rita Marley Foundations. Nana Rita Marley said, "I do not want to miss being a part of this historic event."

The Embassy of Portugal has also contributed several items from their private collection from over 10 African countries as part of the over 100 items to be displayed. Pan African films, storytelling for children and art and culture talks with leading Jamaican Maroon historian Nana Farika Berhane will also be part of the program.

The UNECA is a major supporter of the exhibition and is printing the official catalogue to memorialize the event, emphasizing the impact of the arts on African development. The catalogue will be distributed to African Heads of State, Ministers and various cultural institutions in Africa and the Diaspora. The IES will also benefit from the exhibition, with contributions of books and other items allowing scholars and students alike to continue learning during this Year of Pan Africanism and the African Renaissance, after the celebration has ended.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing more at the press conference.

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please call :

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