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DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS

Fairfield County Connecticut's 2008 African-American Art Exhibition

As every story has two sides, African Americans acknowledge and are doubly conscious of their multi-faceted tale. To artistically celebrate the rich and complex chapters that comprise this fascinating history, the Stamford Center for the Arts (SCA) Cultural Fine Arts Program presents "Double Consciousness", Fairfield County's 2008 African American Art Exhibition which opens MLK Weekend (Jan 18-21) and runs through Black History Month (February). Participating artists are of African, Haitian and African-American descent.

The exhibition is inspired by the words of philosopher and teacher W.E.B. Du Bois and his concept of DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS, which is the manifestation of two souls inhabiting one body simultaneously; as in the genetic African spirit and American influence which inhabits the African-American psychic consciousness. The works of art in the exhibition educate audiences on challenges faced by the African American...who longed to attain self-conscious manhood...to merge his double self into a better and truer self...making it possible to be both African and American, without losing the opportunity for self-development and societal acceptance.

"Double Consciousness" opens January 18 and runs through March 2. Works are as varied as the artists who created them. Yet, each work is a merging of complex influences, methods and expressions. The exhibition can be viewed downtown Stamford, CT at the SCA Rosenthal Gallery, Rich Forum, 307 Atlantic Street and at the Sackler Gallery, Palace Theatre, 61 Atlantic Street. Gallery hours for both venues are Mon-Sat, 10 am to 6 pm and Sun, Noon to 5 pm. Works can also be viewed by appointment at General Electric's corporate headquarters cultural fine art gallery or virtually at www.picture-that.com/gegallery/africanamerican.

To officially open the exhibition, a community reception will be held on February 7 from 6 to 8 pm. at the Rich Forum, 307 Atlantic Street, Stamford, CT. The reception is free, open to the public, includes cultural music and refreshments. Literacy and art submissions by students from Fairfield County schools and community centers will also be on display.

This is the 5th year that General Electric's African American Forum (GEAAF) has proudly sponsored Fairfield County's African American Fine Art Exhibition and Community Reception. The community at large is cordially invited to attend. For more information, contact The SCA Cultural Fine Arts Program at 203-977-8203. For directions to the Rich Forum or Palace Theatre visit www.scalive.org.

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