

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.®

1925 Adam C Powell Jr. Blvd., Suite 1L • New York, New York 10026 • 212-222-5660 • fax 212-222-5675 • nc100bw@aol.com



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Contact: Shirley L. Poole, executive director
National Coalition of 100 Black Women
Phone: 212-222-5660
Fax: 212-222-5675
nc100bwslp@aol.com
<http://www.ncbw.org>

THE NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN'S THIRD ART AUCTION GALA FEATURES ARTWORK FROM MASTERS

New York, NY -- October 27, 2006 -- The National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW) will host its third annual Art Auction Gala, "Legends of African American Art Today & Tomorrow," on Nov. 4 at the 26+ Helen Mills Theater, 137-139 W. 26th St., to benefit HIV/AIDS and other NCBW initiatives. The event will feature artwork by Eldizier Cortor, Artis Lane, Richard Mayhew, John Biggers, Richard Yarde, Elizabeth Catlett, Emma Amos, Benny Andrews, Richmond Barthe, Richard Hunt and many others.

"Our art auction is growing; we envision that it will become one of the preeminent events on the artistic calendar that collectors can attend and purchase quality artwork," said Marva Smith Battle-Bey, NCBW's newly elected president and chief executive officer and president of Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation, a Los Angeles based nonprofit.

To kick-off the evening, there will be a preview of the artwork at 5:00p.m. This will be followed by an impressive panel on collecting African American artwork. Dr. Samella Lewis, the gala's honorary chair, has spearheaded the event. And, it has received support from its honorary cochairs: Angela Bassett, Courtney Vance, CCH Pounder and Bill Bellamy.

"Although the auction was designed to support the Coalition's initiatives, we wanted to also offer an educational experience," said Lewis, a pioneer artist and art historian and the first African American woman to earn her doctorate in fine arts and art history. She added that having a panel discussion with a diverse and knowledgeable panel of collectors will enable them to share distinctive perspectives for and benefits of collecting African American art.

Lewis will serve as co-moderator with Eric Key, the executive director of The Kansas African American Museum. Among the panelists are Walter O. Evans, a distinguished surgeon and bibliophile who is regarded as one of the nation's foremost collectors of African American art, and Halima Taha, Ph.D., an art curator, consultant and author of "Collecting African American Art."

The event is sponsored by Pfizer, DaimlerChrysler, Moet Hennessey, AstraZeneca and Tyco International. Attendees will then be given the opportunity to mingle during the reception that takes place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The silent and live auctions begin at 8:00p.m. Tickets to the event can be purchased in advance through NCBW at 212-222-5660

NCBW is a 25-year-old advocacy organization that consists of 62 chapters in 26 states and the District of Columbia. It is an organization of progressive women whose voice and force for gender equity and sociopolitical advancement drive meaningful change to benefit women of color.

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