



## SANKOFA SOCIETY NEWS

January - March, 2011

### SANKOFA SOCIETY travels to Talladega College



On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Sankofa Society visited Talladega College to see the renowned Talladega Murals painted by the late Hale Woodruff at Savery Library, and the stained glass windows designed by Dr. David C. Driskell at de Forest Chapel. The group was met by Sankofa member Dr. Art Bacon, retired Professor and former Provost of the College. Dr. Bacon arranged for the group to be accompanied by the Crimson Ambassadors (honors students at the College), and greeted by Dr. Barbara Dunn-Harrington,

as well as Miss Talladega College. Following a guided tour of the Library and Chapel, Sankofa members were treated to lunch by Dr. Bacon at Diamond Lil's - THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL AND ENLIGHTENING DAY DR. BACON, and many thanks to the Sankofa Education Committee for their work on this trip.



## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS AT The Birmingham Museum of Art

(yellow box indicates Sankofa Society event)

### To Make a Picture

#### The Photography of P.H. Polk from the Paul R. Jones Collection January 24-May 23



This second installation in the BMA's African-American art gallery explores various aspects of Prentice Herman (P.H.) Polk's (1898-1984) work. Polk, a Bessemer native, became one of the most important African-American photographers of the 20th century through his role as the official photographer of the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) from 1939-1984, when he passed away. In his nearly 50 years in this capacity, Polk became the leading chronicler of campus life, capturing scenes of social, historical, and artistic significance and recording for

posterity images of George Washington Carver, the Tuskegee Airmen, Eleanor Roosevelt, Joe Louis, Paul Robeson, and many other prominent individuals. Dr. Amalia K. Amaki, Curator of the Paul R. Jones Collection, serves as the guest curator for this exhibition.

**Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

#### ***SPIRAL: My Recollections of an African-American Art Collective***

Lecture by Sankofa Society member Dr. William Colvin

Birmingham Museum of Art, Steiner Auditorium

Reception following, with sneak preview of P. H. Polk exhibition

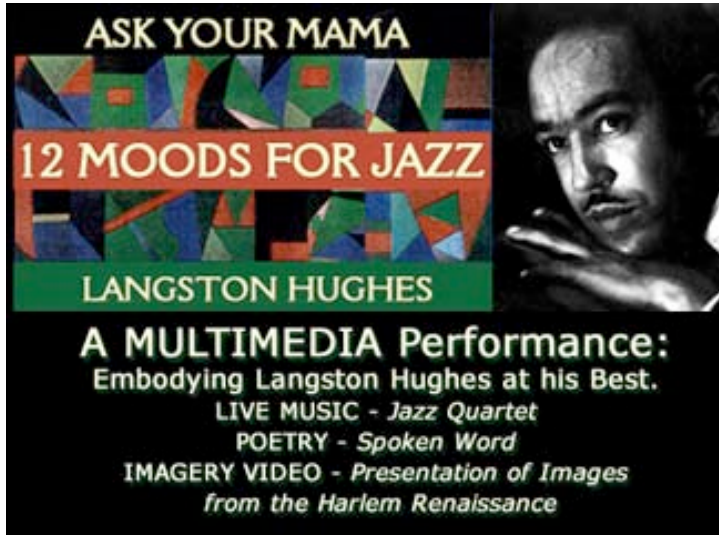
In New York in 1963, a group of twelve African-American artists formed a collective called Spiral. The group included Romare Bearden, Hale Woodruff, Emma Amos, and Alvin Hollingsworth, among others. The group's concerns included the urgent societal issues of the Civil Rights movement coupled with explorations of abstraction and a search for Black aesthetics. Dr. Colvin will discuss his interactions with these artists, and show excerpts of his own video-recorded interviews.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 7 p.m., FREE

## Performance: The Langston Hughes Project

Birmingham Museum of Art, Steiner Auditorium

Co-presented with Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame



This evening of spoken word, jazz, and imagery correlating to Langston Hughes' poetry is presented under the artistic direction of Dr. Ron McCurdy. Hughes' kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite, *Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz* is an homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom at home and abroad at the start of the 1960s. Hughes scored this 12-part epic poem with musical cues drawn from the blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie woogie, bebop and progressive jazz, Latin and Afro-Cuban mambo music, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso, and African drumming – a

creative masterwork left unperformed at his death. By way of videography, this concert and performance links the words and music of Hughes' poetry to topical images of people, places and events.

Friday, February 5, 7-9pm, FREE

*BMA Speaks!*

Birmingham Museum of Art, Steiner Auditorium

Cash bar opens at 6:30pm

HBO Def-Poetry Jam artist Sharrif Simmons is back to host a night of powerful spoken word performances by our talented local spoken word artists. To submit your poetry for selection, contact Kristen Greenwood at [kpgreenwood@artsbma.org](mailto:kpgreenwood@artsbma.org) or 205.254.2856.

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

## *P.H. Polk Photographs: Pictures of Desire*

Public Lecture by Dr. Amalia K. Amaki

Birmingham Museum of Art, Steiner Auditorium



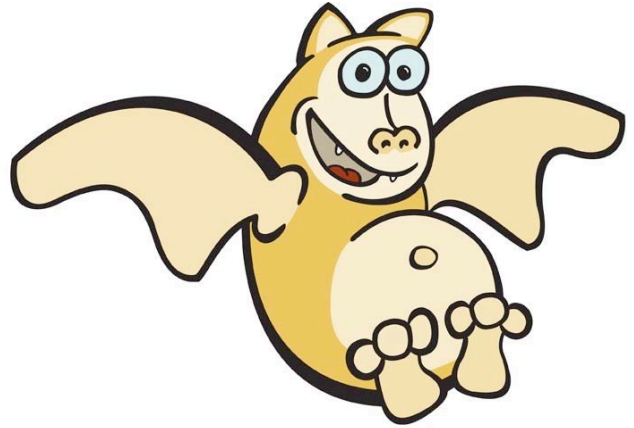
Dr. Amalia Amaki, Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama and Curator of the Paul R. Jones Collection, will provide insight into the fascinating life and work of Prentice H. Polk (1898-1984), a Bessemer native who became one of the most significant photographers of the 20th century through his role as the official photographer of the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University).

**Saturday, February 20, 11am, FREE**

### **Bart's Books**

Bart selects one book each month about art that he thinks children will enjoy.

*Tar Beach* – come and hear a beautifully illustrated story about a young African-American girl with a vivid imagination.



**Saturday, February 27, 11am–3pm, FREE**

### **FAMILY DAY**

Birmingham Museum of Art

### *Wired Up: Folk Art with Bart!*

Bart the Art Bat loves to make art and he needs help from your whole family! At this family day, you'll get to take a tour of the folk art exhibition, go on a scavenger hunt that celebrates black history through art, listen to some great stories, and end it all with a choir performance by the Miles College Choir.

## **EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION**

### **MOBILE**

**January 23 – April 18, 2010**

### ***Successions: Prints by African American Artists from the Jean and Robert Steele Collection***

*Successions: Prints by African-American Artists from the Jean and Robert Steele Collection* will feature 62 works of traditional and non-traditional printmaking techniques such as etching, monoprint, lithography, linocut and silkscreen, by 45 artists including Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, David Driskell, Sam Gilliam, Margo Humphrey, Jacob Lawrence, Stephanie Pogue, Faith Ringgold, Lou Stovall, William T. Williams and James L. Wells. This exhibition is organized by the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora and The Art Gallery at the University of Maryland, College Park.

## MONTGOMERY

**Through January 22, 2010**

*Visual Exegesis: Religious Images by African-American Artists from the Jean and Robert E. Steele Collection*

**The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture  
Alabama State University, Montgomery**

This exhibition, curated by Sankofa Society member Dr. William Colvin, is intended to extend one's religious experience, to stimulate thoughts and emotions of individuals at all levels, and to demonstrate the skill and mastery of African-American artists. For more information on the exhibition call 334-229-4824, or 334-229-4106.

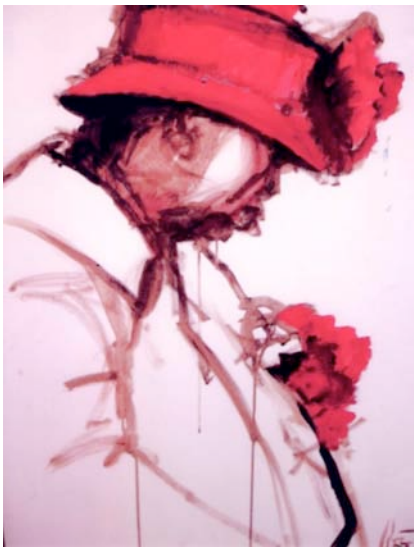
**February 1 - May 2010**

*Exhibition of work by the National Alliance of Artists of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (NAAHBCU)*

**The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture  
Alabama State University, Montgomery**

## ATLANTA

**Sunday, December 20, 2009**



Please join us at our home for a private showing of paintings and drawings by **Art Bacon**

Noted Alabama Artist  
on

**Sunday, December 20**

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Donna and Harry Coaxum

320 King Estates Drive

Atlanta, GA

**RSVP (267) 421-1206**

*Hors d'oeuvres & refreshments served*