



Celebrating Diversity

A multi-cultural exhibition honoring communities, backgrounds and points of view.



Pattern in Red,
Photography
Hiroko Shikashio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *This February, the Attleboro Arts Museum welcomes **Celebrating Diversity** – a breakthrough multi-cultural arts exhibition.*

***Celebrating Diversity** represents the greatness that can be achieved when we embrace diversity and inclusion. Elena Calderón-Patiño, Community Arts Program Director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA), curates this group show featuring a variety of media from over 40 New England artists.*

Exhibition Dates: February 23 - March 13, 2010

Location:

Attleboro Arts Museum
86 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703
508.222.2644
www.attleboroartsmuseum.org

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Artist's Reception: Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 3:30 – 6:00 pm
Free and open to the public • The Attleboro Arts Museum is accessible

3:30 – 4:30 *Gallery viewing; refreshments; Mohammed Intisar Kasim Ennadawi of Iraq performs on lute*

4:30 – 5:00 *Acknowledgements/recognition*

5:00 – 6:00 *Select exhibiting artists will be available for one-on-one discussions*

(6:00 – 10:00) *Plan to stay for Attleboro's Winter Night Festival, Downtown Attleboro, MA – free and open to all. Exhibition will remain open to the public*



Sacred Grove
 Wood, pigment
 Ana Flores

From February 23 – March 13, 2010 the Attleboro Arts Museum will present *Celebrating Diversity* – a multi-cultural exhibition honoring communities, backgrounds and points of view. Gallery-goers will view personal responses to life in, for example, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Mexico, Indonesia, China; examine artwork developed for the visually impaired; discover the creative strength of an artist with developmental challenges; and explore contemporary visual statements of global importance. *Celebrating Diversity* offers a range of media and concepts.

Celebrating Diversity was initially on display at The Atrium Gallery at One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, (a gallery run by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts) during August and September 2009. The exhibition launched as a group show that included the work of artists currently living in Rhode Island. Due to popular demand and interest it has grown to incorporate a range of artists that live and work in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. This expansion has made for a very intriguing collection of reflections and statements.

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"Regardless of where we come from or who we are, we all can be moved by a powerful concept and well executed visual work", comments Mim Brooks Fawcett, Executive Director of the Attleboro Arts Museum. Fawcett continues, "The vibrant and varied art in this exhibition is thought-provoking, and will undoubtedly touch all viewers. Using a rich mix of personal messages and a range of creative techniques *Celebrating Diversity* truly reflects the idea that art is a universal language."

Exhibiting Artists

Joshua 2, Nancy Aleo, Pablo Alvarez, Elizabeth Arseneau, John Avakian, Juan Jose Barboza-Gubo, Dan Butterworth, Taliabah & Carlos Cabral, Josh Carter, Jiyoun Chung, Cinzia Cittadino, Nancy Cusack, Felix Diclo, Iris Donnelly, Samantha Fields, Ana Flores, Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Eric Mora Guillén, Francisco Hernandez, Ciriaco Herrero, Ezequiel Jiménez, Grimm Lee, Hiroko Lee, Nixon Leger, Farnaz Mobayyen, Munir Mohammed, Betsy McLaughlin, Maria Napolitano, Clare Nesdall, Debra Olin, Agustín Patiño, Kristian Rangel Villari, Tony Reeves, Monique Rolle Johnson, Amy Jean Romero, Cynthia Ross-Meeks, Affandi Setiawan, Hiroko Shikashio, Balam Soto, Dawn Spears, C.A. Stigliano, Mark Taber, Brittany Taylor, Peter Thibeault, Sidney Tillett, Luis Villanueva, Jessica E. Vohs.

Elena Calderón-Patiño, Community Arts Program Director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA), remarks "The motivation behind the 1st Annual *Celebrating Diversity* exhibit at the Atrium Gallery in Providence, RI, was to promote art as a means of facilitating cross-cultural dialogue. After an overwhelming response to the exhibit, I envisioned the show traveling throughout the New England area. This led to a conversation with Mim Brooks Fawcett, Executive Director of the Attleboro Art Museum, to discuss the prospect of moving the show to her location and she welcomed the idea." Calderón-Patiño continues, "We then began working on an expanded version of the *Celebrating Diversity* exhibit for the Attleboro Arts Museum, featuring over 40 artists from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. We also talked about hosting future regional multi-cultural exhibits that will include nationally and internationally renowned artists, as well as Southern New England artists with a range of challenges."

"The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts is pleased to collaborate with the Attleboro Art Museum and all of these extraordinary and diverse artists in presenting this important show" states Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director, Rhode Island State Council on the Art (RISCA). "The citizens of Rhode Island and Massachusetts are fortunate to have artists of this caliber living and working in their communities. We are committed to supporting this work, and the work of all artists, for the value that they bring to life in southern New England."

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"Since 2001, The Rhode Island Department of Administration, Human Resources Outreach & Diversity Office (HROD) has partnered with Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) to showcase the work of black and Latino artists from the Rhode Island area. Our shows have served as a means through which their artistic voice could be heard," comments Cheryl Burrell, Administrator, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Human Resources Outreach & Diversity Office (HROD). "In 2009 we launched our first *Celebrating Diversity* exhibit featuring the work of a more diverse group of Rhode Island artists. The show was a huge success, largely due to the efforts of our curator, Elena Calderón-Patiño, RISCA's Community Arts Program Director. I look forward to the Attleboro Arts Museum's expanded *Celebrating Diversity* exhibition."

Several related arts experiences will take place at the Attleboro Arts Museum during the Celebrating Diversity exhibition. Events include:

1. Attleboro's Winter Night Festival

Saturday, February 27th, 2010; 6-10pm

Directly outside the Attleboro Arts Museum, Downtown Attleboro

Free and open to the public

Attleboro's Winter Night Festival is a one-night, outdoor/indoor, family-friendly arts event celebrating visual arts, music, performance, culinary adventures and children/family activities. The Attleboro Cultural Council (a Local Cultural Council of the Mass Cultural Council) is the lead sponsor of *Attleboro's Winter Night Festival*.

2. Attleboro Arts Museum Annual Poetry Slam

Saturday, March 6th; 2-5 pm

Attleboro Arts Museum Ottmar Gallery

Free and open to the public

Hosted by Boston SlamMaster Simone Beaubien

The Boston Poetry Slam and the Attleboro Arts Museum present the fifth annual **Attleboro Arts Museum Poetry Slam** on March 6, 2010. Poets, listeners, and art enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend this high-energy literary event. "Poetry Slam" is most easily defined as the art of competitive poetry. Poets nineteen years of age and under are invited to compete in a "youth" competition. An adult poetry slam, open to all, will close the afternoon. All members of the public are invited to attend to listen, compete, or judge as one of the Museum's most dynamic programs celebrates its fifth year of poetic fun. The *Celebrating Diversity* exhibition will serve as a backdrop for the Poetry Slam.

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3. "Picturing Connections": Spotlight Exhibit at the Attleboro Arts Museum

Saturday, March 13th; 2-4 pm

Attleboro Arts Museum Ottmar Gallery

Free and open to the public

"Picturing Connections", a visual arts education workshop series at the Attleboro Arts Museum, featured hands-on classes with artist-in-residence, Cristina Hajosy, and culminates with spotlight exhibitions in the Museum's Ottmar Gallery and Attleboro City Hall. This series was funded by *VSA arts of Massachusetts* and served adult students with developmental disabilities from the Arc of Northern Bristol County. "Picturing Connections" encouraged participants to visualize and appreciate their surroundings for the larger possibilities, while empowering them through art to become involved in community betterment and support.

Note: this is a partial list of events.



Army of the Imperfectly Dressed (detail)
Wood and acrylic
C.A. Stigliano

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About RISCA

Established in 1967, the RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) is charged by the state of Rhode Island legislature to stimulate public interest and participation in the arts and to serve as the liaison to the state arts community. www.arts.ri.gov

About the Attleboro Arts Museum

The Attleboro Arts Museum involves audiences of all ages and backgrounds in the visual arts through diverse educational programs and engaging arts experiences. We work to support the creative and artistic development of both promising and professional artists. The Museum is a privately supported, non-profit arts institution whose core commitment to *Arts for Everyone* guides the Museum's programs and operations. www.attleboroartsmuseum.org

Musician Mohammed Kasim

Mohammed Kasim recently came to the United States from Iraq. He has played the lute for 12 years and graduated from the Beautiful Art Academy in Baghdad with a degree in music. Mohammed is a composer, teacher of music and also performs on the guitar and nay (a kind of flute). *You may hear more of his music on Facebook under "Mohammedantesar" and on YouTube at "Mohammedantesar."*

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