

Press Release...

June 24, 2008

Contact: Troy Burton
Executive Director
Office: 410-225-3130 Office
Fax: 410-225-3139 Fax

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center Features International Art Exchange in July:

Ecuadorian Artist Victor Hugo Odonez Showcases Works during American Premiere

BALTIMORE – The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center embraces an international artistic exchange in collaboration with the Honorable Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings to welcome arts enrichment and civil discourse among artist of color abroad. The Center presents Ecuadorian artist Victor Hugo Odonez in his American premiere exhibition titled AntiArt. The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, is featured at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center at 847 North Howard Street in Baltimore from Saturday, July 12 to Saturday, August 23, 2008; with an opening reception and public conversation with the artist on July 12 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The artisans and craftsmen of Ecuador are among the most admired in South America, combining both their native creativity and their ancestral inheritance. The art is a cultural manifestation of its indigenous roots as it is richly filled in mores and traditions. Odonez artistic influence conform a duality torn between his surroundings and an interior force that governs his inner self.

What started out as a means of being environmentally sound by recycling and working on a non-conventional canvas, became the signature art form for Odonez, who uses discarded X-ray film as his backdrop. According to Odonez, the celluloid X-ray plates that are used in medicine gives oil, latex and acrylic paints a unique effect, which makes the outcome original and suggestive. On the film, Odonez magnetizes the dark surfaces, creating an abstract art work where the colors, disposition and the shades of dark and light all create a harness of difficult but well blended textures.

Odonez breaks all the already established systems. His work is unique from the lines and the shapes down to the medium – the reasoning behind the exhibition title AntiArt. He expresses his feelings and wants to do so without using standard rules and norms.

A self-taught artist, Odonez best describes his work as contemporary abstract fusion expressions. “Coming from and working in a country that is historically and traditionally very conservative,” Odonez says, “I have broken the standard art schemes such as painting portraits, scenery and realism.” For Odonez, his work prevails as a manifestation that incorporates the essence of his life as he sees the world.

In many ways, art is a natural progress for Odonez, a jeweler by profession. Along with jewelry designing, he also is a prolific writer and poet. Odonez wants patrons to experience AntiArt as new opportunity to think about and digest art.

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday by appointment only.

###

For more than three decades, the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center has sought to bring creative expression and urban consciousness to Baltimore through visual and performing arts education and development opportunities for children, youth and adults in our community.