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Contacts:
Cynthia Ham
404-880-6102
cham@cau.edu

Donna Brock
404-880-8337
dbrock@cau.edu

Larry Calhoun
404-880-6040
lcalhoun@cau.edu

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY ART GALLERIES
PUBLISHES COFFEE-TABLE BOOK
TO MARK 70TH ANNIVERSARY
Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole To Lecture At Celebration Unveiling May 6

ATLANTA (April 24, 2012) Some new coffee talk will be brewing when the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) Art Galleries unveils its new catalogue, In the Eye of the Muses: Selections from the Clark Atlanta University Art Collection, on Sunday, May 6, at 2 p.m. in Davage Auditorium in Haven-Warren Hall, 223 James P. Brawley Drive, S.W.

Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, director of the National Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., will be the guest speaker, with a reception to follow in the Art Galleries in Trevor Arnett Hall. “Great Art Collections At Our Historically Black Colleges And Universities: To Whom Do They Belong?” will be her topic.

(more)
Cole assumed her position at the Smithsonian in 2009, after a stellar career in higher education, including serving as president of Spelman College and Bennett College. She graduated from Oberlin College and earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in anthropology with a focus on African studies from Northwestern University.

CAU President Carlton E. Brown said, “We are very excited that the unveiling of this catalogue commemorates the 70th anniversary of CAU’s historic permanent collection and the 60th anniversary of the unveiling of our *The Art of the Negro* mural series. This jewel of artwork is attributed to the vision and creativity of artist and teacher Hale Aspacio Woodruff, and we are grateful for his legacy.”

Tina M. Dunkley, director of the Art Galleries, said, “The compilation of this work has been an incredible journey, and we are very proud of the outcome. Also, to have the distinguished Dr. Cole join in our celebration underscores the importance of the preservation of African-American art, which has historically been devalued.”

The catalogue includes a historical overview of the permanent collection, noted for its inception during segregation and providing a national forum for African-American artists. The book also includes an essay by Atlanta art critic Jerry Cullum on the suite of murals that Hale Woodruff (1900-1980) executed and features 190 plates of works by renowned and obscure artists of all ethnicities. Another entry is the correspondence between Romare Bearden and the university administration, debating the efficacy of sponsoring an “all-Negro” national juried exhibition.

The work has an introduction by Richard A. Long, followed by the title essay, *In the Eye of the Muses*, by Dunkley. Also, the book provides an account of the sociopolitical climate and racial politics that produced the *Exhibition of Paintings, Prints, and Sculptures by Negro Artists of America*. Other contributors include Brenda Thompson and Freddie Styles. The publication is co-sponsored by the National Community Advisory Committee.
The cost of the catalogue is $60 (hard cover) and $45 (soft cover). For more information, call 404-880-6102, visit www.cau.edu -About CAU-Art Galleries or go to facebook.com/cauart_galleries.

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