

aljira A CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

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DREAMtime



ENDURING VISION

Aljira has been a part of Newark's cultural landscape for over 20 years, and *Endurance*, the title of our next exhibition, perhaps best defines us today. The idea of enduring through challenges and a series of innovations is central to Aljira's mission and accomplishments.

The exhibition follows the lives and stories of homeless Seattle youth, and parallels both the problems and potential that Aljira's exhibition and educational programs seek to address. It will run simultaneous to the pilot exhibition from Aljira's Newark schools-based Young Curators program.

The lessons of critical thinking and personal creativity that the Young Curators program promotes are skills that will last lifetimes. These enduring capabilities are also extended in Aljira's offering to adult artists through the Emerge program, which has widely expanded its professional-development services in a partnership with Creative Capital, a national organization that provides support to artists.

Our commitment to exploring innovative ideas and identifying creative potential is also reflected in the recent appointment of our new Program Director Eathon G. Hall, Jr., who brings a fresh new focus to Aljira's exhibitions and its public program initiatives beyond the gallery.

Young Curators/Newark student-artists on field trip at PS1. Photo: Jodi Shapiro

Save The Date
Thursday
June 2, 2005

THE ALJIRA FINE ART AUCTION 2005
RAISING THE SPIRIT

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I greet you with a sense of both accomplishment and hope as a new decade of Aljira unfolds.

Our flagship educational program, Young Curators, having enjoyed great success in its pilot phase in collaboration with Montclair's Renaissance School, has extended ambitiously to the public schools in our home city, with projects in three Newark high schools—Weequahic, Shabazz and West Side—and an exhibition debuting at Aljira on June 23.

Emerge, our acclaimed program of professional development for artists, has entered a new era in partnership with Creative Capital. Strategic planning and career management, as well as lectures and networking opportunities, extra programming for EmERGE alumni,

and a second semester each year—doubling the population of artists able to participate—are all new features which lead to the culminating exhibition.

We welcome the addition of Program Director Eathon G. Hall, Jr., to our staff with enthusiasm. Eathon will help expand and deepen Aljira's outreach through socially engaged programming for youth, artists and the general public.

To maintain all of these bold new efforts—to endure, as the title of our other major summer exhibition has it—we also look forward to building on the unprecedented success of *The Aljira Fine Art Auction 2004*, which well surpassed its \$100,000 goal.

Your individual support is vital to Aljira's mission as an innovative space for the presentation of contemporary art and its future as a donor-based organization, and I am hopeful you will direct your

enthusiasm and generosity toward making *Raising the Spirit: The Aljira Fine Art Auction 2005*, on June 2, an even bigger success than last year.

I invite you to learn more about our initiatives in this issue of *Dreamtime*, and to explore with us the creative experience in the years ahead.

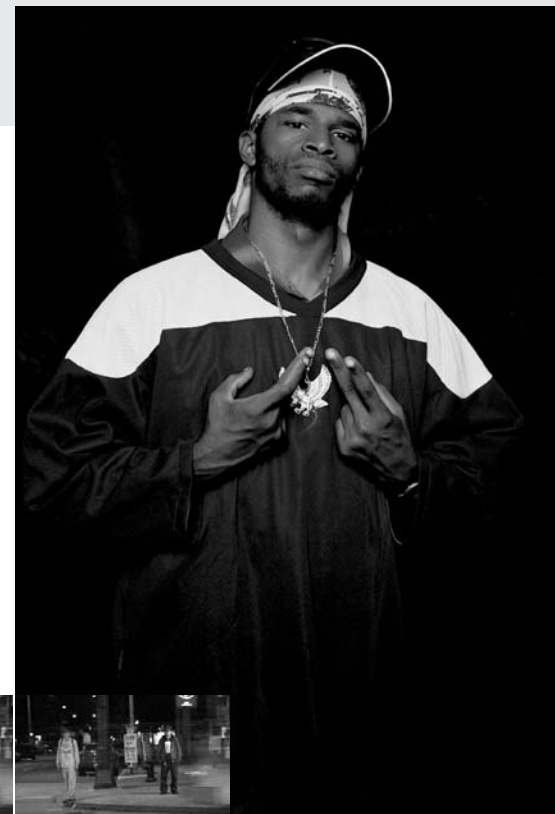
Victor L. Davson
Executive Director
Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art

Endurance: T-Bone, (August 5th, 2005; 10:01 pm–11:00 pm), collection of Kehinde Wiley, and video clips from Endurance, 2002

Aljira Exhibitions: **FACING THE WORLD OF YOUTH CULTURE**

This summer Aljira presents *Endurance* by New York-based artists Bradley McCallum and Jacqueline Tarry, whose work engages ordinary people in collaborative art projects. The exhibition consists of life-size color photographs and a video documenting the testaments of 26 teenagers living on the streets of Seattle.

Simultaneously, in Gallery 2 (our newly expanded exhibition space), the inaugural exhibition of Young Curators/Newark will feature the work of over 60 teen artists from this educational outreach and youth development initiative developed in partnership with the Newark Public Schools. This teen-curated exhibition will



Chosen by the homeless advocacy group Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, McCallum and Tarry videotaped the teens standing on a Seattle street corner, for one hour each, over 26 hours. The youth stand completely still while life, compressed into a two-hour video, speeds on around them.

In the exhibition visitors will not only view the video but hear the teens' own stories in recorded voiceovers and see 26 large photo portraits of these youths who, like their problems, quietly demand to be noticed.

be organized by a curatorial team with representatives from each participating school. The Young Curators program pairs high school art teachers with artist-educators to engage youth with contemporary art and meaningful issues through the development and production of their own exhibition. This year's participants in Young Curators/Newark include the Weequahic, Shabazz, and West Side high schools. *Endurance* and the *Young Curators/Newark* exhibition provide a distinct look into youth culture, demonstrating hope and determination with important and enlightening perspectives.

Both exhibitions will be on view from June 23 through September 24, 2005.

Upcoming fall 2005 exhibition: *Emerge Six: On Location* will be on view from October 19, 2005 to January 14, 2006.

Exhibition schedules are subject to change; for updates visit Aljira.org.

Endurance was made in partnership with Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets as part of ARTS UP, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle. Funding was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Seattle City Light Percent for Art, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and the Fales Foundation.

RAISE THE LEVEL OF ALJIRA'S IMPACT AT THE ALJIRA FINE ART AUCTION 2005

Mark your calendar for *Raising the Spirit: The Aljira Fine Art Auction 2005* on Thursday, June 2. This annual event is one of Aljira's major fundraisers, and also engenders strong support for local artists and contemporary art. The auction is about more than raising funds—it's about Aljira's rising hopes as we expand our mission, and our audience's rising expectations as our services grow.

Last year's auction—a 20th-anniversary celebration—set a new fundraising precedent that we hope to surpass. The event offers food, drink, a relaxed social

setting and unique works of art that can make a significant addition to your collection, home or work space. The range of art media and price categories is wide, and the ticket price is still \$75 per person.

Aljira patron Patricia A. Bell will be honored, as will representatives from New Jersey Transit's public art program which brings so many artists and everyday citizens together. Newark Mayor Sharpe James and State Senator Leonard Lance serve as the event's honorary chairmen.

A preview reception, silent auction and performance will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; the live auction (led by Harmer Johnson of PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*) will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more details please visit Aljira.org or contact Joan M. Wright by phone at 201-488-2877 or by email at joanwright@thewrightperspective.com. Please make plans to attend and give New Jersey's leading center for contemporary art a "raise"!

Aljira thanks the auction's sponsors to date, by category: Prudential Financial, Inc. (The Realist); MCJ Foundation; Merrill Lynch, The Metropolitan Region; Frederick A. Morton, Jr., Esq.; and The Aljira Board of Trustees (The Expressionist); City National Bank; Merrill Lynch Investment Managers; and Merrill Lynch, Short Hills (The Cubist); Clarence Seniors' Clarsen Investments; Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP; and PSE&G (The Modernist).

Mansa K. Mussa, *Oshun*, 1987. Color Photograph, 10¹/₈ x 14¹/₄ in.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Creative enterprises like Aljira are built on the belief that each individual has something important to express and contribute. One individual who has contributed much to Aljira is Patricia A. Bell—so significantly, in fact, that at *Raising the Spirit: The Aljira Fine Art Auction 2005* she will be honored with the Advocate for the Arts Award.

Ms. Bell is a collector of modern and contemporary art whose commitment and support of Aljira and other New Jersey arts organizations has distinguished her as a generous patron and an esteemed member of the philanthropic community. A Senior Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor for Merrill Lynch, Ms. Bell serves on the boards of both the Montclair Art Museum and the Garden



Patricia A. Bell, Senior Vice President-Investments, Merrill Lynch

State Arts Foundation. She is also a dedicated supporter of the Women's Fund of New Jersey (a federation that supports grass roots women's organizations throughout the state), among her many other distinctions.

"I truly value Aljira because it provides an alternative contemporary arts space that's dedicated to emerging New Jersey artists who aren't represented by the traditional gallery structure," she remarks, adding that "Aljira Director Victor Davson introduced me to the gallery and I'm committed to its mission."

For his part, Davson says that Bell is "an extraordinarily supportive patron of Aljira" and a worthy recipient of this year's Advocate for the Arts Award.

Aljira's Leadership in the Arts Award will also be presented at the auction and will honor New Jersey Transit's Transit Arts Program, which for over 10 years has promoted opportunities for artists and an enriched visual experience for thousands of commuters with art projects on a number of transit routes. Accepting the award will be the Transit Arts Program's Executive Director George D. Warrington and Project Manager Sheila D. McKoy.

Aljira is going back to school—and forward into new levels of community service—with the newest stage of its arts-education program Young Curators. For four years this project has operated at Montclair's Renaissance School under artist-educator Joyce Korotkin, and with the spring 2005 semester, it has established a pilot presence in three Newark high schools: West Side, Malcolm X Shabazz, and Weequahic.



Just the Beginning:

ALJIRA'S YOUNG CURATORS ENTER A NEW ERA

This initiative pairs high school art teachers with a visiting artist-educator and provides the teachers with training and resources to help integrate contemporary art into their curriculum. Professional development workshops with expert advisors are given for the teachers and artist-educators, while students join in for field trips to museums, galleries, and artists' studios, accentuating an approach to arts education as a shared and ongoing experience outside the "white box" of the gallery space between teacher, student, artists and the community. Based upon

the art they witness and the issues—from the art world, current events and their everyday lives—that they discuss, the students create their own work and produce their own exhibition.

The first exhibition from Young Curators/Newark will be held in Aljira's Gallery 2 from June 23 to September 24, 2005.

Also be sure to check out the Young Curators/Montclair student-curated exhibition *Cultures R Us* on view at Aljira at the Academy, our satellite space in



Young Curators/Newark student-artists on field trip at the Jersey City Museum. Photos: Jodi Shapiro

Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts, from May 23 through September 24, 2005, in Montclair, NJ.

Like all worthwhile education, the lessons of Young Curators will have a lifespan far beyond any one session or semester.

Special thanks to the MJC Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Newark Arts Council's Art Start project grant for their support of this program.

GIVE TO ALJIRA SO ALJIRA CAN GIVE BACK

Aljira is sustaining events like the fine art auction and efforts like our capital campaign, Taking It to the Street: The Campaign for Contemporary Art at Aljira, which will enable the ongoing expansion of our physical space and presentation of our public programs. Generous and dedicated donors have taken us much of the way to our goal, and there's no more pivotal time than

now for your added support. Please review the coupon on this page and consider what you can give, and for more information on ways to help, we invite you to contact Charles Russell, Chair of Aljira's Capital Campaign, at crr@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-5279, ext. 501.

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On the Job:

ALJIRA'S NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR JOINS THE TEAM



Hands-on experience: it's what distinguishes every dedicated professional. And with Aljira's new Program Director, Eathon G. Hall, Jr., Aljira's exhibition and educational programs are in good hands.

Mr. Hall's professional experience will further broaden the aesthetic and cultural connections between Aljira's programs and its audiences. Victor L. Davson, Aljira's founding and executive director, states that "Eathon's diverse interests in contemporary art and visual culture will encourage the flow of ideas and images between the different cultural and economic communities of Newark and beyond to bring a dynamism and relevancy to our programs."



Mr. Hall will be responsible for developing Aljira's curatorial and education programs to engage new and diverse audiences.

He will also oversee marketing and community outreach initiatives that build and expand Aljira's organizational identity.

Prior to joining Aljira, Mr. Hall was Curator of Education and Public Programs at The Bronx Museum for the Arts. This marks his second professional stint in Newark; he previously served as the Assistant Director of Education for Instructional Programs at The Newark Museum, where he managed their

Eathon Hall (left) and Young Curators/Newark student-artist on field trip at The Newark Museum.

extensive school and teacher programs serving over 100,000 children each year. At The Bronx Museum he engaged and expanded audience participation through new initiatives such as an experimental interactive website and a popular performance and music series, which integrated DJ culture, new media, and the performing and literary arts. He also organized several non-traditional residencies between local communities and artists.

Mr. Hall's interdisciplinary approach to cultural programming fits well in the context of Aljira's inclusive mission. He remarks, "This is an exciting moment in the development and growth of Aljira. I am delighted to be a part of such an innovative nonprofit, which serves as an important entrepreneurial model for alternative spaces looking to redefine the role of art and its social currency in individuals' daily lives."



Sergio Quezada, Aljira Design intern at work

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

For any organization to endure and evolve, commitment and communication across generations is crucial, and this dedication to dialog with new voices is exemplified in Aljira's internship program.

One of the current impressive interns is Sergio Quezada, who works with Aljira Design, helping ensure the continuance of our mission in more ways than one by being both a young contributor to Aljira's advancement and a part of the design business that provides some of Aljira's financial stability.

This partnership of the creative and the practical is reflected in Sergio's own outlook. Taking the initiative to contact Art Director Cicely Cottingham after admiring the firm's work on a mailing he'd seen, Sergio signed on "because I wanted to be involved in a creative art environment, have a taste of how a design studio runs and personally get experience as a graphic designer."

Sergio's responsibilities include "mopping the floor and cleaning the windows—no, just kidding," he laughs. "I help with such

tasks as preparing electronic files for pre-press, redesigning and composing old and new art work, constructing mock-ups and updating Aljira files."

Holding an Associate's Degree in graphic design from the Art Institute of Philadelphia, Sergio "expects to get enough information, skills and taste of what this field is like to get a decent job."

Encapsulating the legacy of knowledge Aljira aspires to, he enthuses that "the senior designers are willing to show and teach art tips and tricks; I am involved in a professional team that there's still a lot to learn from." A fitting last word on the subject, but far from the last you're likely to hear from this emerging talent and the other interns in Aljira's professional family.

Re-Emergence:

ALJIRA'S SIGNATURE ARTIST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ENDURES AND EXPANDS

For over five years, Aljira's Emerge program has helped guide working artists in balancing their creative calling with financial viability. The established curriculum has included professional advice on such subjects as financial planning, grant applications, analysis of work habits and more. Late last year, this program was redesigned to include a series of all-day strategic planning sessions facilitated by Creative Capital, a national leader in working with artists to sustain their practice. The series has become a standard feature of Emerge.

An extra semester has been added this year, doubling participation from 20 artists to 40. Creative Capital will continue to lead the strategic-planning workshops, while Aljira coordinates new lecture events and professional networking opportunities for participants. The benefits of Emerge will extend to past attendees and future ones with a special lecture series for Emerge alumni and an annual networking forum open to all artists, offering social interaction around stimulating events such as exhibitions and informative workshops. A culminating exhibition for Emerge artists remains an

important part of the program, and this fall the first of the artist networking forums will coincide with the opening of the next of these shows.

Emerge Six: On Location will open with a reception on Saturday, October 15. Organized by independent curator Lilly Wei, the survey of work by the most recent Emerge graduates will be unified by a sense of place, in locations "real or imagined, remembered or present, here or elsewhere."

An open call for the next rigorously-selected Emerge class will be held in the fall; please call 973-622-1600, or log on to Aljira.org and get on our mailing list, to receive further information. Consider the reinvention of Emerge as one possible way to continue your own artistic experiment while better balancing the creative and career sides of the equation.

Special thanks to The National Endowment for the Arts and Bank of America Charitable Investments for their support of this program.

Aljira Emerge Six class of participating artists, whose exhibition will be on view October 19, 2005-January 14, 2006.



MISSION STATEMENT:

Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, fosters excellence in the visual arts through exhibitions and educational programs that serve as catalysts for inclusion and diversity, promote cross-cultural dialog, and enable us to better understand the time in which we live. Public understanding and support of the visual arts are strengthened through

collaboration and community-based educational programming. To this end, Aljira seeks out the work of emerging and underrepresented artists and brings the work of more established artists to our community. Through the visual arts Aljira bridges racial, cultural and ethnic divides and enriches the lives of individuals.



Aljira's exhibition, educational and public programs are supported by a leadership grant from JPMorgan Chase.

Funding has been made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; The New Jersey Cultural Trust; Johnson & Johnson; The Prudential Foundation; Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; and individual contributions.

Gallery Hours:

Wednesday-Friday, 12-6 pm; Saturday, 11 am-4 pm



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