

News Release

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CELEBRATING CULTURE THROUGH COUTURE -- THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS "FASHION AFRICANA"

PITTSBURGH, PA – The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh, in collaboration with Carnegie Museum of Art and the 2004 Carnegie International, presents **"Fashion Africana," November 7, at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Music Hall Foyer**, 4400 Forbes Avenue, in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood.

Created and produced by Utopia Model Agency, the fourth annual *Fashion Africana* goes beyond the traditional fashion show -- it is a showcase of design, music and dance that is unique in its celebration of beauty, art, culture and diversity of the African Diaspora.

This year's *Fashion Africana* will pay tribute to the Lost Boys of the Sudan, and their extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Fleeing on foot from one of Africa's cruelest civil wars (which continues today), over 3000 Sudanese men resettled in the United States in 2001, many in Pittsburgh. Thirteen fashion and jewelry artists have created designs inspired by the journey of these remarkable young men from Africa to America.

Custom African-inspired designs have been created by: Libby Ashworth, Xenobia Bailey, Janis Burley Wilson, Nadia Chebah, Montie Cholmeley-Jones, Zoe Collins, Thommy Conroy, Vanessa German, Omo Misha, Jamil's, Karen Page, Steven Radney and Mary Margaret Stewart.

Fashion Africana features dance performances by choreographer Kyle Abraham, Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble and Expressions Contemporary Dance Company, and musical performances by Afrika Yetu.

Special guest Monique A. Greenwood, author and former Editor-in-Chief of Essence Magazine, will emcee this exceptional evening.

Fashion Africana attendees can chose from three ticket packages, and three options to enjoy the evening:

\$75 – Includes a VIP Reception from 5-6pm, a private tour of the 2004-2005 Carnegie International from 6-7pm, highlighting artists Julie Mehretu and Senga Nengudi, Reserved Floor Seating for *Fashion Africana*, and admission to the *Fashion Africana* After Party.

\$50 – Includes Floor Seating for *Fashion Africana*, and admission to the *Fashion Africana* After Party.

\$20 – Includes General Admission to *Fashion Africana*, with overhead view from the balcony (standing).

Tickets for *FASHION AFRICANA* are on sale now, and can be purchased through ProArts Tickets by calling 412.394.3353 or by visiting www.proartstickets.org.

Proceeds benefit the African American Cultural Center. More information is available at www.africanaculture.org and at www.fashionafricana.com.

The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh is a not-for-profit organization that presents exhibitions, performances, education and public programs that deepen understanding and appreciation of the African American artistic, cultural and social contributions to Pittsburgh, the nation and the world.

Utopia Model Agency, Inc., based in Pittsburgh, PA, strives to broaden the standard of beauty by increasing diversity in the world of fashion, promoting positive and healthy images, and meeting clients' changing aesthetic in an increasingly diversified and global market. Utopia provides representation and career guidance to both male and female fashion models, and created *Fashion Africana* as a platform to showcase its models and to celebrate the diversity and beauty within the African Diaspora.

Carnegie Museum Of Art offers a distinguished collection of contemporary art as well as American and European art from the 19th-21st centuries and decorative arts from the late 17th century to the present. From October 9, 2004-March 20, 2005, the museum welcomes the 54th Carnegie International.

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