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Flint Institute of Arts
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Flint, MI. 48503

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Promises of Freedom: Selections from the Arthur Primas Collection at the Flint Institute of Arts

(Flint, MI) *Promises of Freedom: Selections from the Arthur Primas Collection* is currently on view at the Flint Institute of Arts. The collection is one of the largest and most important collections of African American art in the country. The exhibition, which runs through April 17, features the art of Charles White, Jacob Lawrence, Hughie Lee- Smith, Romare Bearden and Bob Thompson among others.

African American art is a complex mix of sources, inspirations and goals. The artwork in this exhibition, tells stories about life in America through the lens of artists who were not initially accepted in the art world. There are images that disdain oppression, that claim individuality, that give shape to spirituality, and others that quietly persevere in the search for beauty. All of them were brought together because they represent the artist's search for freedom.

Arthur Primas is not only a respected collector, but also a well-known promoter who represents actor/director Tyler Perry. "The collection has been assembled because each work of art captured my eye and pulled me in. It might have been the movement in the piece, or the combinations of colors. Whatever it was, it caused me to pause and listen for the message," said Mr. Primas.

The artists in the exhibition have made art that speaks to experiences on both an individual level, as well a collectively, reflecting both international and domestic influences. To experience the work now is to discover art that was always vital, searching, hopeful, critical and self-supporting, and it remains so today.

The FIA is located in the Cultural Center Park, 2 blocks off the I-75/I-69 exchange between UM-Flint and Mott Community College. Gallery hours are Mon –Wed & Fr, 12p-5p; Thu 12p-9p; Sat 10a-5p and Sun 1p-5p. For more information call (810) 234-1695 or www.flintarts.org.

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