

## NEWS RELEASE

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**For more information, interviews and images, please contact:**

Anne Marie Todaro, Publicist 416.586.5558; e-mail: [amtodaro@rom.on.ca](mailto:amtodaro@rom.on.ca)

# ROM Launches *Beyond the Rhythm: Caribana Art Exhibit*

On display during Scotiabank Caribana, July 23 to August 3, 2009



Stephen Taylor, Pioneers of Achievement

(Toronto, Ontario – Monday, June 29, 2009) The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is pleased to unveil ***Beyond the Rhythm: Caribana Art Exhibit***, launched as part of Scotiabank Caribana 2009, North America's largest outdoor event celebrating Caribbean and African-Canadian heritage. The juried exhibition features a captivating collection of 50 canvases created by 25 artists of African-Canadian heritage and builds on the ROM's commitment of presenting art inspired by cultures from around the world. Produced by the Association of African Canadian Artists and curated by renowned African-Canadian artist and activist Joan Butterfield, the installation will be on display in the Museum's 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Centre Block from **Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday, August 3, 2009.**

"The Caribana Festival is an important showcase and celebration of culture. The ROM is very pleased to be able to present *Beyond the Rhythm*, providing festival-goers and all Torontonians the opportunity to experience a unique and powerful art exhibition in the context of Caribana. We received an enthusiastic response to the Museum's Caribana exhibition last year and it forms a vital part of the ROM's Engage the World mandate," said William Thorsell, Director and CEO of the ROM.

As a collective response to a poem written by Ms. Butterfield entitled *Beyond to Rhythm*, the exhibition serves as a celebration of survival and accomplishments beyond the bounds of hardship and sorrow, as depicted by a talented array of African-Canadian artists.

“Over half of the artists were born outside of Canada and bring their differences, their histories, their traditions and their struggles to their canvases,” explains Ms. Butterfield. “The range of approach truly communicates each artist’s cultural identity and is a true testament to their unique abilities.”



Sonia Farquharson, *No Limitations*

### **Highlights**

*Beyond the Rhythm: Caribana Art Exhibit* is a travelling art exhibit produced by the Association of African-Canadian Artists. The exhibit features a final selection of works by the following artists (complete list of artists is below):



Izzy Ohiro, *Beyond the Rhythm - Impartation*

Jamaican-born Canadian, **Nicole Peña** is an award-winning artist who has exhibited in several solo and group shows in Toronto, New York City, Port of Spain, and Hamilton, Bermuda over the past ten years. Many of her paintings depict everyday people entranced and seduced into spiritual and psychic reverie. She says of her works for this exhibition, “rhythm liberates the body and frees the spirit.” Influenced and inspired by music, **Charmaine Lurch’s** canvases are a narrative on cultural histories, while **Izzy Ohiro’s** work focuses on inner beauty, festivity and celebration by creating layers of simple colours, shapes and exciting movement.



Joy Andre, *Letters To Our Children - Royalty*

Toronto born and raised, artist **Joy Andre** works with acrylic paints, text as an art form, and explores texture on canvas to symbolically represent the strength, struggle and spirit of people of the African Diaspora. **Sonia Farquharson’s** paintings are visual representations of everyday people and historical figures from around the world that have inspired her and that she hopes will inspire others to fight for racial equality.

Born in London, England, **Angela Haynes’** composition is influenced by the inspirational essence of the body, mind and spirit. She uses texture and vibrant shades to portray the body as a site of expressive movement, emotion and strength.

**Beyond the Rhythm Artists:**

Joy Andre	Donnet Maria
Philemon Campbell	Anna-Maria Dickinson
Ken Daley	Kathy Moscou
Kwame Delfish	Jason O'Brien
Sonia Farquharson	Izzy Ohiro
Dion Fitzgerald	Ingrid Pascal
Donna Guerra (iam mai)	Nicole Peña
Wayne Hanson	Cheryl Rock
Reginald Harmon	Asha Aditi Ruparelia
Angela Haynes	Stephen Taylor
Deniece James	David Vasquez
Charmaine Lurch	Leslie Williams
Janet Manning	

The ROM is pleased to be involved in Scotiabank Caribana 2009 as it forms an important part of the Museum's programming. Visitors to ***Beyond the Rhythm: Caribana Art Exhibit*** can also enjoy themed menu items in the ROM's Food Studio restaurant.

**Scotiabank Caribana 2009 Toronto:**

Derived from Canada's 1967 Centennial Celebrations, in addition to Canada's embracement of its Caribbean community, the world famous festival Caribana attracts over one million participants and spectators from around the world to Toronto each year. It has become one of the largest annual events held in North America. This year's Scotiabank Caribana festivities, now in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year, runs from Tuesday, July 14, 2009 to Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. For more information, visit [www.caribanafestival.com](http://www.caribanafestival.com). For more information on Scotiabank Caribana, please contact: Stephen Weir, 416-489-5868.



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The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Opened in 1914, Canada's largest museum combining both natural history and world cultures holds six million objects in its collections and presents public galleries showcasing art, archaeology and natural science. Renaissance ROM is an ambitious expansion and heritage renovation project that reasserts the Royal Ontario Museum as one of North America's great museums and a leading cultural attraction for the city, province and country. Renaissance ROM continues until 2010 with several new and renovated galleries to be created at the Museum.

For 24-hour information in English and French, please call 416.586.8000 or visit the ROM's web site at [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca)