



# Press Release

January 4, 2005

\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\*

Contact: Julie Thomson, Outreach Coordinator  
517/353-9834; thomso16@msu.edu

**EXHIBITION:** *In Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.: African American Art in the KAM Collection*

**DATES:** January 10-February 3, 2005

**LOCATION:** Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

## **In Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Kresge Art Museum Showcases its Collection of Work by African American Artists**

In conjunction with the campus-wide observance of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 17, a selection of Kresge Art Museum's diverse collection of African American art will be on view from January 10-February 3, 2005.

This exhibition brings together 25 works of art from the museum's permanent collection by internationally-known artists such as Romare Bearden, James Van Der Zee, Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, and Carrie Mae Weems. They range in media from photographs and prints to paintings and sculpture and date from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the present. Some of the artists directly address issues of African American experience and identity directly in their artwork, while others choose to comment on the modern American experience more broadly.

"Each one of these artworks is interesting in its own right. Together, their dramatic visual differences and wide range of subject matter illustrate the complexity of defining what 'African American Art' is," says KAM intern Katherine White, guest curator of the exhibition. "These artists are fascinating individuals who have contributed in very different ways to the evolving story of American art in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as to the study and preservation of African American art and culture."

On January 17 at Kresge Art Museum there will be a docent-led tour of Kresge's collection of African art at 12:10 p.m., a second tour of work by African American artists at 12:30 p.m. and screenings of videos about African American artists from 1-4 p.m. in 108 Kresge Art Center.

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum and many of its public programs. The museum is open Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan. For additional information, please call 517/355-7631 or visit [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu).

###