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OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA COMES ALIVE FOR 'O ZONE: SOUNDTRACK—THE DRUM'

OMCA honors Black History Month with a celebration themed on the resilience of African rhythms from Ghana to California

*From the righteous beats of **Lagos Roots Afrobeat Ensemble** to a musical presentation with master drummer **CK Ladzekpo** and famed composer **Anthony Brown**—OMCA celebrates the influence of the drum in our lives*

(OAKLAND, CA) February 7, 2011—Groove to the power and resilience of the drum and the African rhythms that comprise the soundtrack of our lives at the Oakland Museum of California's **O Zone** celebration on **Friday, February 25**, from **5 p.m. to 12 a.m.** The Museum celebrates **Black History Month** with a festive evening honoring the power of the drum and its influence on all people and cultures, from Africa to modern day California. All events are included with Museum admission.

O Zone Highlights Include:

Music by **Lagos Roots Afrobeat Ensemble**, featuring original members of **Fela Kuti & the Afrika 70**.

A musical storytelling presentation sampling the progression of African drumming through history featuring master drummer **CK Ladzekpo** and famed composer **Anthony Brown** along with guest drummers and African dancers.

Musical presentation of the hambone by **Derique McGee**.

Gallery conversation featuring **Duane Deterville** talking about California's history of resistance in jazz and the role of jazz in visual art.

An inspired menu with local ingredients from Whole Foods Market® in the Blue Oak café, with music provided by **Bill Bell** and **The Jazz Connection Trio**.

Amoeba Music Soundtrack Lounge featuring DJs **Wonway Posibul** and **Jonasty**.

A **political poster jam** presented by **the Oakland Standard** honoring the history of political posters in the Bay Area, and celebrating OMCA's acquisition of the All Of Us Or None political poster collection.

Conversation with former **Black Panther Minister of Culture Emory Douglas**, artist **Favianna Rodriguez**, and political poster historian **Lincoln Cushing**.

Digital and screen printing workshop with **San Francisco Print Collective**, **Great Tortilla Conspiracy**, street artist **Eddie Colla**, and **Jesus Barraza**,

Sneak peek of OMCA's new exhibition ***Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest*** before it opens the next day.

All activities are included with Museum admission. In partnership with Amoeba Music and Whole Foods Market®.

ABOUT OZONE

O Zone is a new series of extended-hours public programs at the Oakland Museum of California designed to bring an engaging and entertaining mix of experiences that give depth and access to OMCA exhibitions and collections. Designed to appeal to the hearts, minds, and souls of visitors, O Zone features programs that are stimulating, unusual, intriguing, fun, and social—all in one venue in the center of the burgeoning cultural scene in downtown Oakland.

ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits share the California narrative with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped the state's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.8 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Oakland Museum of California is located at 1000 Oak Street in Oakland. Museum admission is \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the new 1000 Oak Street main entrance. For more information, visit www.museumca.org.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest

Oakland Museum of California • 1000 Oak Street • Oakland, CA 94607 • 510-238-7964

February 26 – May 29, 2011

Explore the Arts of the Missions of Northern New Spain in this stunning exhibition exploring the rich artistic legacy of the Franciscan and Jesuit mission churches in northern Mexico and the American Southwest. Many of the missions were exuberantly decorated with lavish paintings, sculpture, furniture, and liturgical objects and vestments. For the first time, this exhibition brings together more than a hundred sacred and ceremonial artworks from collections throughout Mexico, the U.S., and Europe. OMCA is the only California venue for this traveling exhibition and one of only two in the United States.

Contemporary Coda**February 26 – May 29, 2011**

Illuminating current perspectives on the Spanish conquest of California, OMCA presents a companion installation to *Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest*. Offering relevant viewpoints on age-old themes and iconographies presented in the exhibition, approximately 17 works by contemporary artists address issues of immigration, religion and contemporary Chicano identity, and the cultural survival of the Native peoples of California.

SNEAK PEEK***Michael C. McMillen: Train of Thought*****February 9 – August 14, 2011**

The exhibition spanning the 40-year career of mixed-media artist Michael McMillen doesn't open until April 16; however, don't miss the chance to get a sneak peek with the first two installations *Pavilion of Rain* and *Lighthouse* on view now at OMCA. A constructed habitat featuring a 30-foot well of water surrounding a shack of corrugated metal, *Pavilion of Rain's* multisensory experience will not disappoint. Part sculptor, installation artist, printmaker, and cultural anthropologist, McMillen has been creating environmental installations with architectural references that deal with themes of time, change, and illusion since the 1970s. *Michael C. McMillen: Train of Thought*, on view April 16 through August 14, explores the career of the Santa Monica-based artist, who was recently honored as a recipient of the 2010 Painters & Sculptors Grant Program from The Joan Mitchell Foundation.

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