

PRESS RELEASE:

February 4, 2010

For immediate release:

Through February 26, 2010

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

MEDIA ALERT ---

Paintings by Buchi Upjohn Aghaji at the Cultural Arts Center in February

Douglasville, Georgia – In conjunction with the “American Master Jacob Lawrence” exhibition displaying 17 prints and posters on loan from the permanent collection of Hammonds House Museum at the Cultural Arts Center, the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents 15 paintings by Douglas County-based Nigerian born artist Buchi Upjohn Aghaji through February. The exhibitions’ reception on Saturday, February 6th, from 6 until 9 p.m., is hosted by the Douglas County Connection. Entertainment for reception will include recordings of period music from the Harlem Renaissance selected by City Councilman Sam Davis, a musician and disc jockey as well as a barber and elected official, a performance of classical music by pianist Alfred Pinkston formerly of Miami, Florida, who now resides in Southwest Atlanta, and a performance of jazz piano by Norcross-based composer and arranger Chris Givens who is best known for his concerts at Hopewell Baptist Church. The exhibiting artist, known as Upjohn, will be present during this celebration of Black History Month and for the gallery talk and tour on Sunday, February 7th, from 3 until 5 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

A resident of Douglas County since 2006, Upjohn began drawing and painting at a very young age. At fifteen he began his study in Visual Communication and received a BA degree in fine and applied arts at the University of Nigeria in 1986. After working in advertising field for a year in Nigeria, he traveled to England and began to pursue painting full-time, opening a studio with an illustrator in London. Although this is the first exhibition of his work in Douglas County, Upjohn has exhibited his brilliantly colored paintings, prints and drawings widely including at the Art Expo (New York, NY), the Charlotte Fine Art Show (where he was awarded best of show in 2009), Gallery Guichard (Chicago, IL), LaBelle Gallery (New Orleans, LA), October Gallery (Philadelphia, PA), UBS International Brushstrokes Exhibition (New York, NY), the Singletary Museum of African Art (Portsmouth, VA), Noyes Gallery (Evanston, IL), and Mason Murer Gallery and the National Black Arts Festival (both in Atlanta, GA). He is represented in the collections of BET, Morehouse School of Medicine, Liberty Bank, 100 Black Men of America, the Essence Awards, Cedric the Entertainer, Michael and Juanita Jordan, Randy Crawford, Yolanda King, and Tina Knowles. His work has also been featured in numerous magazines and other publications including *Popular Club*, *Big Shout News*, *Big Black Book*, *Class Magazine*, *New African Magazine*, and *Upscale Magazine*. Upjohn lived in New York and New Jersey for several before moving to Georgia, but he continues to maintain a studio in Nigeria.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia. Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. For directions and more information, please visit our web site, www.artsdouglas.org or contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787.

PRESS RELEASE:

February 4, 2010

For immediate release:

Through February 26, 2010

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLE: BUICHI UPJOHN AGHAJI:
Paintings from the Artist's Collection

PLACE: The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville / Douglas County
8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

DATES: February 1 – 26, 2010

RECEPTION: Saturday, February 6th, 6 – 9 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS: Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

COST: Free and open to the public

CONTACT: Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787