

PRESS RELEASE:

January 26, 2009

For immediate release:

Through February 24, 2009

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

**CONTEMPORARY PRINTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA:
Works from the Caversham Press on loan from the Fulton County Arts Council**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents “Contemporary Prints from South Africa: Works from the Caversham Press” on loan from Fulton County’s permanent collection during February in celebration of Black History Month. Including 49 lithographs, screen prints, linocuts, collagraphs, woodcuts, and artists books created by African artists at the world renowned printing atelier presented in partnership with the Fulton County Arts Council, the exhibition will be on view through February 24th at Cultural Arts Center. Hosted by the Douglas County Connection, the opening reception will be on Saturday, February 7th, from 6 until 9 p.m., at the Cultural Arts Center. On Sunday, February 8th, from 3 until 5 p.m., a special gallery talk and exhibition tour will be offered by Atlanta-based artists Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier and Lisa Tuttle who worked at the Caversham Press as part of an international exchange sponsored by the Fulton County Arts Council. Both events are free and open to the general public.

The first fine arts printmaking organization in South Africa, Caversham Press was founded in 1985 by artists Malcolm and Ros Christian. Located in Balgowan, KwaZulu-Natal, Caversham Centre for Artists and Writers has hosted more than 500 local and international artists who have participated in its collaborative printmaking programs for artists and writers and created traditional limited edition prints since it was established. In 1998, the Caversham Centre began its collaboration with the Fulton County Arts Council then under the direction of Harriet Sanford who initiated an exchange of artists from the American South and South African artists. These international collaborative residencies, known collectively as the Hourglass Project, have been very successful and continue through the leadership of Fulton County Arts Council director Veronica Njoku. In 1999, the first Hourglass Project resulted in “A Women’s Vision;” in 2001 the exhibit, “Baggage,” metaphorically explored the nature of what we carry when we travel, a topic revisited in the third show, “Journey,” by a new group of artists in 2002; and the fourth and final exhibit to date in 2007, “Personal Vocabulary” presented works created during residencies from 2002 until 2005.

Many of Atlanta’s best known contemporary artists have participated in the Hourglass Project with support from the Fulton County Arts Council. Abstract expressionist and arts educator Mildred Thompson and photographer Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier participated in the first exchange to South Africa for the Women’s Vision project. Painter Kojo Griffin, ceramist Diane Kempler and lithographer Wayne Kline created work during the second; and photographer Jill Larson, curator and assemblage-maker Kevin Sipp, and feminist conceptualist Lisa Tuttle participated in the third; and

printmaker Terry Dilling, performance artist Marcia Jones, and writer Alice Lovelace contributed to the fourth exchange. However, the current exhibition displays only works by the African artists who participated in the four Hourglass exhibits in order to illustrate the incredible range and extraordinary accomplishment of their printmaking projects at the Caversham Press in celebration of Black History Month.

While the most of artists on display are South African, others represent different countries and cultures of the continent. Born in Mozambique, trained by a Namibian woodcut artist and now a resident of Durban, Ezequiel Mabote participated in the "Journey" residencies, and his two woodcuts in the Cultural Arts Center in Douglasville are "My Life," a colorful joyous diptych of his personal travels from the countryside of his ancestors to a bustling metropolis, and the black and white "Overloaded," where workers are piled onto a pick up truck followed closely by a single motorcyclist. Muralist and illustrator Velille Soha states, "My aim is to show how my people live their lives," a goal clearly and quietly achieved in his lovely fan-shaped screenprint, "Homecoming." South African Gabisile Nkosi's prints also depict scenes of daily life with a screenprint, "One Sunday Morning," portraying the dark dance of marital violence, and in sharp contrast, the sweet domestic peacefulness of children sleeping of her hand-colored linocut, "In Our Bedroom." Much of the work is figurative with several notable exceptions like Rosemarie Mariott's elegantly minimalist embossing, "Tracery," and Sarah Kedibone Tabane's darkly sinuous collagraphs, "Fertility I" and "Fertility II." In fact, several pieces that appear abstract on closer viewing reveal faces and bodies hidden in their patterning, as in Pip Curling's elegant silver and gold "Zulu Woman Mandala" and the untitled screenprint of a leafy green lily-laden fan by Mamorena Sephosi. Among the most powerful images of the entire extraordinary exhibit are Namibian artist Herman Mbamba's screen-prints, the brilliantly colored, Picasso-esque faces of the displaced in "Place to Place" and the cruelly used hands of "A Divine Journey." Four beautifully realized artists books – Vonani Bila's *Lines for Lionel*, Sharlene Khan's *MaAfrika – My Struggle to Become a Child*, June Madingame's *Pieces of a Crown*, and Ingrid Winterbach's *Exile* – all created during the most recent international exchange, are also displayed in the Douglasville exhibit.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, located about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Commission, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art. For detailed directions and more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site --- www.artsdouglas.org.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134
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CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLE: CONTEMPORARY PRINTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA:
Works from the Caversham Press

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

DATES: January 20 – February 24, 2008

RECEPTION: Saturday, February 7th, 6 – 9 p.m.

GALLERY TALK: Sunday, February 8th, 3 - 5 p.m.

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

COST: Free and open to the public

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

Directions from Atlanta: Take I-20 west 18 miles past I-285 to the Chapel Hills exit (Exit 36); stay right off the exit following signs for Campbellton Street; stay on Campbellton through 1 stop light and 3 stop signs; after Douglas County High School on the left, the Cultural Art Center is on the right; turn right on Duncan Street and take an immediate right into CAC's free public parking.