



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release

Contact: Cynthia Milledge: 334.240.4369; cmilledge@mmfa.org

The Civil Rights Movement Comes to Life

Montgomery, AL— As America anticipates the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-1956), Montgoerians will hear two different perspectives on these turbulent times from two men who lived through them, and are now giving first-hand accounts. The MMFA invites you to meet Civil Rights activist and Montgomery businessman Loyd Howard during a reception on Thursday, April 2 at 6 P.M. Immediately following, Mr. Howard will reflect on coming of age in the capital city during this pivotal moment leading up to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Later in April, writer and editor Randall Williams will explore the larger social and political context of the Civil Rights movement in Alabama, and events that prompted the struggle for equality in America. Please join us Thursday, April 23 at 6 P.M. for a reception followed by an in-depth multi-media presentation on events beginning with slavery and continuing through the dismantling of Jim Crow segregation.

Both programs will be held in conjunction with the Museum's *History Refused to Die* exhibition, which is devoted to the work of 15 Alabama African-American self-taught artists whose works tell a powerful story of the lives, history, and culture of blacks in Alabama. Not formally trained as artists, and sometimes referred to as self-taught these artists are gaining increased attention in the American art world as their relationship to the larger art history and culture of the United States in the 20th century becomes more apparent.

History Refused to Die is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, located at One Museum Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, in conjunction with the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, and Tinwood, LLC, Atlanta, Georgia. A related exhibition is on view at the Alabama Contemporary Art Center in Mobile, Alabama, from March 14 through December 20.

The exhibition and education programs for *History Refused to Die* are sponsored by Regions Bank and the Central Alabama Community Foundation and are co-sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Harmon Dennis Bradshaw, Inc.

The MMFA, a department of the City of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Exhibition programs are supported by a grant from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Admission is **FREE** to the Museum. To learn about more events and for hours of operation go to mmfa.org.

