

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Museum of Biblical Art Receives NEA Grant to Support African-American and Biblical Imagery Exhibition

New York, NY, November 17, 2011—MOBIA is proud to announce it is one of the recipients of a National Endowment for the Arts grant and will receive \$21,000 to support the planning of the exhibition *Ashé to Amen: African-Americans and Biblical Imagery*, scheduled to open to the public in February 2013. MOBIA will receive one of 863 grant awards that total \$22.543 million and will support projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Ashé to Amen will explore how African American artists have drawn upon different biblical narratives, including creation, expulsion, slavery, deliverance, and freedom, to forge artistic expression from the 17th century to the present. It will present dozens of objects, drawn from public and private collections, including fabric art, painting, sculpture, prints, photographs, ritual objects, a praise house installation, and objects from material culture. The exhibition will feature art forms of the spoken, poetic, and sung word. A series of lectures, concerts, and poetry readings will also be offered to the public to compliment the exhibition.

“Art Works is the guiding principle at the NEA,” said agency Chairman Rocco Landesman. “And I’m pleased to see that principle represented through the 823 Art Works-funded projects included in this announcement. These projects demonstrate the imaginative and innovative capacities of artists and arts organizations to enhance the quality of life in their communities.”

“In this current economy, where funding for the arts is particularly strained, we are grateful to the NEA for this tremendous show of support,” said Dr. Ena Heller, Executive Director, MOBIA. “This grant will allow us to further develop the most complete picture possible of the Bible’s complex role in African-American art.”

In March 2011, the NEA received 1,686 eligible applications for Art Works requesting more than \$84 million in funding. The resulting funding rate of 49 percent of eligible applications reflects both the significant demand for support and the ongoing vitality of the not-for-profit arts community despite current financial challenges. Art Works grants are awarded based on the applications received by the NEA and how those applications are assessed by the review panels.

About Museum of Biblical Art:

[MOBIA](http://www.mobia.org) presents critically acclaimed art exhibitions while offering an array of affordable arts enrichment programs to visitors of all ages. MOBIA celebrates and interprets art related to the Bible and its cultural legacy in Jewish and Christian traditions through exhibitions, education and scholarship. Past exhibitions have ranged from masters of the Italian Renaissance to the art of Marc Chagall. Visit www.mobia.org for more information on current exhibits and public programs.