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MEDIA NOTE: Downloadable images from this exhibition are at: <http://goo.gl/vgA71>

**NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOLD JAN. 23RD EXHIBITION OPENING FEATURING
CONTEMPORARY, MULTI-GENERATION ARTISTS**

NEWARK, JAN. 16, 2012— The Newark Public Library invites the public to its Jan. 23rd opening of an exhibition that celebrates a wide range of contemporary, living Newark artists of multiple generations, from internationally renowned, to newly emerging.

The event is the continuation of the Library's 2012-2013 celebration of Newark art and artists launched last October with the opening of a two-part exhibition, and a portfolio review and art resource fair. The second part of the exhibition opens Jan. 23rd with a 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. reception at the Main Library, 5 Washington St. Jared Ash, exhibition curator, will present a talk at 7 p.m. on the Library's 100-plus year history as an art space, and its rich relationships with Newark artists, past and present.

Newark Art and Artists: Prints, Photographs, and Other Works on Paper from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library is a two-part exhibition of works created by artists who have lived, studied, worked, or were born in Newark. The exhibition includes art created between 1800 and 2012, and is drawn entirely from the holdings of the Library's Special Collections Division. Part I of the exhibition, which ran from October 3, 2012 through January 12, 2013, presented works primarily from the 19th and early/middle-20th centuries.

Part 2 of the exhibition, opening Jan. 23, features approximately one hundred works created between 1937 and 2012 by a wide range of contemporary, living artists. In addition to artists most frequently associated with Newark such as **Willie Cole**, **Chakaia Booker**, and **Jerry Gant**, the exhibition presents works by a number of other world-renowned artists with Newark roots, including **Robert Birmelin**, **Barbara Kruger**, and **George Tice**. The exhibition also includes several works by the late **Will Barnet**, as a posthumous tribute. Early in his career, Barnet, who passed away in November at the age of 101, taught at the Newark Normal School, which later became Kean University and moved to Union Township.

"The Newark Public Library proudly supports our Newark artists, and we encourage residents to come to the opening and the exhibition and be inspired by their work and passion," said Library Director Wilma Grey. "This year's continuation of our celebration of Newark art and artists reaffirms our commitment to serving as a resource for all."

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Library will be hosting its second free Portfolio Review and Art Resource Fair on March 9, from 1-4pm, in Centennial Hall at the Main Library. Presented in partnership with the Paul Robeson Galleries of Rutgers-Newark, the portfolio review offers artists the opportunity to

have their work reviewed by one of four distinguished curators: Mary Birmingham, Curator, Visual Arts Center of New Jersey; Kevin Darmanie, Founder/Director, Kedar Studio of Art; Evonne Davis, Artistic Director, Gallery Aferro; and Adrienne Wheeler, Owner, Adrienne Wheeler Gallery.

In addition to these curators, review participants and other visitors will have an opportunity to meet representatives from a broad range of art organizations, and discover new places to show art, see art, sell art, and create art in Newark. While there is no fee to participate, artists interested in having their portfolios reviewed are encouraged to reserve a review slot in advance. For reservations and additional information, contact Anonda Bell, Director & Curator, Paul Robeson Galleries, at galleryr@andromeda.rutgers.edu, or (973) 353-1610.

“The Newark Public Library has been providing artists with information and inspiration for more than a century,” said Ash. “The Library archives are rich with letters from artists who grew up in Newark between the 1930s and present day, which credit the Library’s exhibitions and collections as being definitive influences in their artistic development. We are thrilled that through the Library’s recent initiative, a new generation of Newark artists is discovering the Library’s art collections and artist resources, and already making great use of them.”

Funding for the exhibitions, portfolio reviews, and resource fairs has been provided in part by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Additional funding from the Dodge Foundation has enabled the Library to purchase works by contemporary Newark artists for the Library’s Fine Prints and Photographs Collection, and to expand the total number of Newark artists represented in the Collection. According to Ash, most of these new purchases will be displayed in the present exhibition, alongside additional works by Newark artists that have been donated to the Library in the past several years.

Artists in the exhibition include: Ibrahim Ahmed, Manuel Acevedo, Sunmarie Allen, Will Barnet, Herbert Beerman, Robert Birmelin, Tom Bish, Mary Lou Bongiorno, Jerome Bongiorno, Chakaia Booker, Dan Brophy, Eleta Caldwell, Willie Cole, Lisa Conrad, Cicely Cottingham, Roy Crosse, Kevin Darmanie, Evonne Davis, Victor Davson, Donald Farkas, Helen Frank, Jerry Gant, Matt Gosser, Gladys Barker Grauer, Grigory Gurevich, Akintola Hanif, Florian Jenkins, James Edward Jones, Robert Knight, Barbara Kruger, Hal Laessig, Donald Lokuta, Maria Mijares, Nell Painter, German Pitrie, Rocco Scary, Kenneth Schnall, Helen Stummer, George Tarr, George Tice, Bisa Washington, Emma Wilcox, Fran Wilner, James Wilson, and Dmitrii Wright, among others.

In recognition of the number of artists in the exhibition who are former faculty or alumni of Arts High School and/or the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, the Library is especially encouraging other alumni and faculty from those schools to attend the Jan. 23rd opening reception.

Newark Art and Artists will be on view in the Main Library’s Third Floor Gallery from Jan. 23 through May 25, 2013. The exhibition and related programs are free and open to the general public during regular library hours, Monday through Saturday. For additional information, please visit www.npl.org, or contact the Reference Division through email at: reference@npl.org, or by calling 973-733-7779.

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