

Museum of the African Diaspora Presents *The Art of Elizabeth Catlett: Selections from the Collection of Samella Lewis*

Exhibition Runs Jan. 16 through April 5

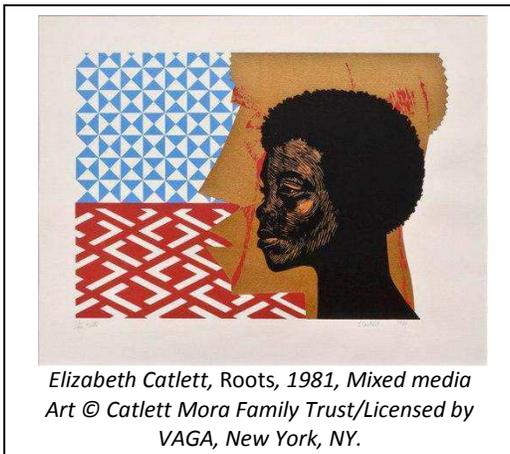
MoAD offers free admission Jan. 19 to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

SAN FRANCISCO (Jan. 8, 2015) – The [Museum of the African Diaspora](http://www.landispr.com) (MoAD) presents *The Art of Elizabeth Catlett: Selections from the Collection of Samella Lewis* from Jan. 16 through April 5 in its newly renovated space.

The Art of Elizabeth Catlett: Selections from the Collection of Samella Lewis is comprised of 38 works by Elizabeth Catlett, her husband, Francisco Mora, and artist-historian, Samella Lewis, Ph.D. The installation celebrates seven decades of Catlett's career as a sculptor and printmaker; it is also one of the first major exhibitions of her work

on the West Coast since Ms. Catlett's passing in 2012. The exhibition is co-curated by Samella Lewis, Ph.D. and Cecile Shellman. The exhibition was organized by the August Wilson Center for African American Culture and Landau Traveling Exhibitions.

Elizabeth Catlett (1915-2012) is widely considered one of the most important African American artists of the 20th century. American-born Catlett's work blends art and social consciousness while confronting the most disturbing injustices against African Americans. She is best known for her work during the 1960s and 1970s when she created politically charged, black expressionistic sculptures and prints.



Elizabeth Catlett, *Roots*, 1981, Mixed media
Art © Catlett Mora Family Trust/Licensed by
VAGA, New York, NY.

The 38 works in MoAD's exhibition are from the personal collection of artist, educator and author Samella Lewis, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Art History, Scripps College, in Claremont, Calif. Lewis was a student of Catlett's in the 1940s when Catlett became her mentor and lifetime friend. As a tribute to the life-work of Catlett, Lewis generously shares Catlett's work, the work of Catlett's husband, Mexican artist Francisco "Pancho" Mora (1922-2002), along with her own.

Free Admission on Martin Luther King Day

MoAD celebrates the national observance of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday by providing free admission to the museum and programs on Jan. 19. Activities that day include sidewalk chalk painting from 1-3 p.m. and continuous airings of Bino & Fino (a popular cartoon from Nigeria) in the Freedom Theater. For more information, please click [here](#).

The Art of Elizabeth Catlett: Selections from the Collection of Samella Lewis is one of three exhibitions in the recently renovated and expanded gallery space



Elizabeth Catlett, *Pauline*,
1967/2003, Lithograph
Art © Catlett Mora Family
Trust/Licensed by VAGA, New
York, NY.

that celebrate black women artists during both Black History Month and Women's History Month at MoAD:

- *The Art of Elizabeth Catlett* (closing April 5)
- *Lava Thomas: Beyond* (closing April 5)
- *Marie Johnson Calloway: Legacy of Color* (closing April 12)

For more information or to support MoAD, visit www.moadsf.org.

About Elizabeth Catlett

Elizabeth Catlett, born in Washington, D.C., was the granddaughter of enslaved workers and the child of educators. She earned her undergraduate degree from Howard University where she studied design, printmaking and drawing. She went on to study at the University of Iowa under the tutelage of Grant Wood, who encouraged her to continue depicting images of African American women and children. Ms. Catlett became the first woman to earn a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. In 1946, Catlett received a fellowship that allowed her to travel to Mexico City where she studied painting, sculpture and lithography. There, she worked with the People's Graphic Arts Workshop, a group of printmakers dedicated to using their art to promote social change. After settling in Mexico and later becoming a Mexican citizen, she taught sculpture at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City until retiring in 1975. Ms. Catlett died in Cuernavaca, Mexico in April, 2012.

About the Museum of the African Diaspora

Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) is an arts and cultural institution dedicated to preserving the stories of our common African heritage and sharing those stories with audiences from around the world. Situated in the heart of the Yerba Buena Arts District in San Francisco, MoAD is actively engaged in building a community that inspires, educates and connects people of all ages and backgrounds. MoAD seeks to build a deeper understanding of the African Diaspora through art, programs and events that cultivate wonder and excitement about the ways in which our personal histories are connected. As a nonprofit organization, the museum's operations and programs are supported by grants and contributions from public and private sources.

As a Smithsonian Institution affiliate, MoAD has access to the Smithsonian Institution's 136 million artifact collection for research, exhibits and programming. MoAD joins a network of more than 190 organizations in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Panama with a shared goal of creating lasting experiences that educate, inspire and broaden perspectives on science, history, world culture and the arts. To learn more and to support MoAD, visit www.moadsf.org.

Calendar Editors, Please Note:

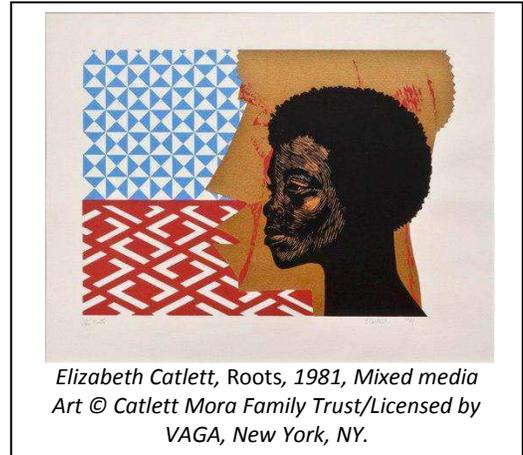
WHAT: *The Art of Elizabeth Catlett: Selections from the Collection of Samella Lewis* celebrates the life of Elizabeth Catlett in 38 works by Elizabeth Catlett, her husband Francisco Mora and artist-historian Samella Lewis, Ph.D. American-born sculptor and printmaker, Catlett is considered one of the most important African American artists of the 20th century whose work blends art and social consciousness while confronting the most disturbing injustices against African Americans.

WHERE: MoAD (685 Mission St., San Francisco)

WHEN: Jan. 16 through April 5

ADMISSION: \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and students; Free for children (12 and under); Free for MoAD members

FOR FURTHER INFO: Visit Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) at www.moadsf.org



Elizabeth Catlett, Roots, 1981, Mixed media Art © Catlett Mora Family Trust/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

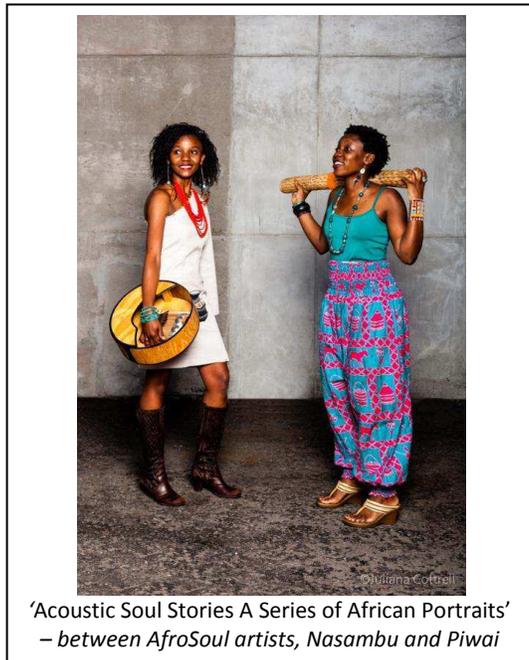
WHAT: *Free Admission | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service* Join MoAD in celebrating the national observance of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday with special presentations of film, art, and musical performances to reflect on the importance of free speech and diverse communities. Activities include sidewalk chalk painting from 1-3 p.m. and continuous airings of Bino & Fino (a popular cartoon from Nigeria) in the Freedom Theater.

WHERE: MoAD (685 Mission St., San Francisco)

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 19

ADMISSION: Free

FOR FURTHER INFO: Visit Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) at www.moadsf.org



'Acoustic Soul Stories A Series of African Portraits' – between AfroSoul artists, Nasambu and Piwai

Media/Calendar Editors, Please Note: To request high-resolution images or to schedule an interview with MoAD Executive Director Linda Harrison, please contact Kristin Cockerham at (415) 359-2315 or kristin@landispr.com.

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