

NEWS RELEASE



Montclair Art Museum

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For Immediate Release

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Winfred Rembert (b. 1945), *Chain Gang (All Me)*, 2004, dye on carved and tooled leather. From the Collection of Margo and Frank Walter. Photography: John Bigelow Taylor. Courtesy Adelson Galleries, New York.

**THE MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM SCREENS
DOCUMENTARY ON SEGREGATED SOUTH**

**FILM TO BE INTRODUCED BY ARTIST WINFRED REMBERT
AND PRODUCER MARK URMAN**

Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m., at the Montclair Art Museum

MONTCLAIR, NJ, January 23, 2012— The Montclair Art Museum (MAM) is proud to present a free screening of *ALL ME: The Life and Times of Winfred Rembert* on Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m. as a key event in MAM's African American Heritage programming celebrating African-American History Month. The artist and subject of the film Winfred Rembert and film producer and Montclair resident Mark Urman will introduce this not-to-be-missed documentary that preserves an important, if often disturbing, chapter of American history.

In this film, Rembert relives his turbulent life in the segregated South and the injustice and bigotry he experienced as recently as the 1960s and 70s. The film is abundantly visualized by his extensive autobiographical paintings depicting the day-to-day existence of African Americans in that era; his indelible images of toiling in the cotton fields, singing in church, dancing in juke joints, and working on a chain gang are especially powerful. In a series of intimate reminiscences, *All ME* presents a glowing portrait of the artist and his art while telling the saga of race in contemporary America. This moving documentary shows us how even the most painful memories can be transformed into something meaningful and beautiful.

After the screening, film director Vivian Ducat, Rembert, and Urman will participate in a question-and-answer session.

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Rembert's painting *Chain Gang (All Me)*, shown on the previous page, will also be on view at the Montclair Art Museum in the exhibition *Look Now: Modern and Contemporary Art from Private Collections*, opening February 12. The exhibition will have extended viewing hours the night of the film screening and will be on view through June 17.

Winfred Rembert

Winfred Rembert, a 65-year-old African American, grew up in Cuthbert, a town in the Southwestern corner of Georgia. He spent much of his childhood as a field worker beside his great aunt in the cotton and peanut fields. Attendance at a civil rights demonstration got him thrown in jail without charges or a trial. An escape over a year later resulted in a prison sentence, but only after Rembert had survived an attempted lynching. He fell in love with his future wife, and with leather as an art medium, while serving seven years on Georgia chain gangs. Life and eight children intervened after prison; it was not until 1995 that Rembert began to carve, tool, and then dye pictures on leather, in his studio in the front room of his home in New Haven, Connecticut. Most of his colorful art depicts scenes and themes from African American life in segregated Cuthbert, GA, and from the time he spent on those chain gangs. His work was exhibited at the Yale University Art Gallery in 2000 and his first major catalogued one-man exhibition was presented in New York in 2010 by Adelson Galleries in association with Peter Tillou Works of Art. Rembert and his family still live in New Haven's inner city.

Mark Urman, Producer

Veteran film industry executive Mark Urman has had an extensive career in the marketing and distribution of some of the most successful and acclaimed independent films of the last two decades. As the head of the US division of the international public relations firm DDA, in the 1990s, he orchestrated the campaigns for such films as *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover, Like Water For Chocolate, The Crying Game, Shine, and Secrets and Lies*, and personally represented such filmmakers as Bernardo Bertolucci, Paul Schrader, and Roman Polanski. As co-president of Lionsgate Releasing, from 1998-2001, he oversaw the release of such hits as *American Psycho, The Red Violin, Affliction, Gods and Monsters, and Dogma*. In 2001, he co-founded and ran the theatrical division of THINKfilm, where he acquired and distributed such films as *Spellbound, The Aristocrats, Half Nelson, and Before The Devil Knows You're Dead*. While at THINKFilm, Urman success in the documentary arena was highlighted by seven "Best Documentary" Academy Award nominations in seven years, and the company won two Oscars in

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that category for *Born Into Brothels* and *Taxi To The Darkside*. Urman served as executive producer on a number of documentary features including the Oscar-nominated *Murderball* and *War Dance*. He also optioned and served as executive producer of *Monster's Ball*, which won Halle Berry a Best Actress Academy Award. More recently, he executive produced *Ultrasuede: In Search of Halston* by Whitney Sudler-Smith.

ALL ME: The Life and Times of Winfred Rembert

For more information about the documentary, visit allmethemovie.com.

Related events

Fifth Annual Montclair African American Film Festival
The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975
Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., Free
Montclair Art Museum

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. The Museum's education programs serve a wide public and bring artists, performers, and scholars to the Museum on a regular basis. MAM's Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, teens, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12.

This program is sponsored by the African American Cultural Committee and made possible by a grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. Additional funding provided by the Vance Wall Foundation.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vance Wall Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum Members.



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