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Art of the city

By GEORGETT ROBERTS

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Whether you're visiting a formal gallery, rented space or a room in an artist's home in Harlem, you can be sure to find a variety of creative expressions capturing the African-American experience and beyond.

FLOOR4ART GALLERY

2136 Frederick Douglass Boulevard, second floor; 212-222-4412; floor4art.com

Although New York-based artist Norma Marquez Orozco founded Floor4Art in East Harlem in 2001, she relocated the gallery to West Harlem in 2008, where it now provides studio and exhibition spaces for artists to work and display their collections.

Since then, Floor4Art has grown to include 13 private art studios and gallery spaces and is home to 19 contemporary artists from diverse backgrounds who work in different styles, subject matter and mediums.

Floor4Art artists utilize a wide variety of mediums and styles, including photography, oil and canvas painting, textile art and mixed media.

On a personal level, Walker specializes in photography and media installations. Fuentes has had her work on display in Floor4Art, and will mount exhibitions at the both The Hamilton Landmark Galleries and Chashama 461 Gallery.

CHASHAMA 461 GALLERY

461 W. 126th St.; chashama.org

Chashama 461 features resident artists as well as those without galleries to display their work.

GINA FUENTES WALKER STUDIO

ginafuenteswalker.com

Gina Fuentes Walker specializes in photography and media installations.

Walker is also part of arHarlem, a nonprofit arts organization, which also operates the Harlem Open Artist Studio Tour (HOAST) a walking tour of local artists' studios that brings exposure to the "artists whose studios are located inside their residential buildings," says Walker.

THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

144 W. 125th St.; 212-864-4500;

studiomuseum.org

Founded in 1968, the Studio Museum specializes in showcasing contemporary art from artists of African descent.

Exhibitions usually focus on works that are inspired and influenced by the African-American culture.

RENAISSANCE FINE ART

2075 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard; 212-866-1660; theRFAGallery.com

The RFA is known for its collection of contemporary paintings, drawings, sculpture and photography from local and international artists.

Its current exhibition is "Nature and Design," and features the work of Hirsohi Jasiki, a Japanese artist who now calls Harlem home, and Ruth Llanillo Leal.

DWYER CULTURAL CENTER

258 St. Nicholas Ave.; 212-222-3060; dwyercc.org

Contemporary artists capture the pulse, rhythm and experience of Harlem residents in the work on display here. Currently on exhibit are "Spirit of the Community," depicting life in Harlem in the past and present, and "The Gospel Tradition," which focuses on churches and religious leaders whose contributions have made a difference in the area.

THE GADSON GALLERY

225 W. 134th St. 212-694-0262; thegadsongallery.com

Quilt and fiber artist Laura Gadson's work has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally.

She uses vibrant colors, ethnic fabrics and themes related to Harlem and the African-American experience.

The Harlem brownstone has been her home, studio and personal gallery since 1993. Viewing is by appointment only.

CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART GALLERY

330 W. 108th St.; 212-749-8848; contempafricanart.com

Now 20 years strong, the Contemporary African Art Gallery, one of the first African art galleries in Harlem, focuses exclusively on African fine art.

The gallery represents over 30 artists from various regions in Africa who have had their work shown in countries all over the world.

Currently on display is "West African Stew," which features the work of artists from West Africa.

CASA FRELA GALLERY

47 W. 119th St.; 212-722-8577; casafrela.com

Casa Frela Gallery opened its doors in 2005 with a focus on educating the Harlem community on different art forms, offering curate exhibitions with special emphasis on community issues, and serving as a place where artists are able to put their work on display.

ESSIE GREEN GALLERIES

419a Convent Ave.; 212-368-9635; essiegreengalleries.com

In this 19th century brownstone in the historic Sugar Hill/Hamilton Heights area, you will find the work of master artists from the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Romare, Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Charles Ethan Porter and Henry Ossawa Tanner. Art styles range from the classically figurative to modern abstract, and pieces are devoted to the African-American creative history and cultural experience.

MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION

65 Jumel Terrace; 212-923-8008; morrisjumel.org

Built in 1765, this mansion of colonial grandeur is Manhattan's oldest surviving house. It features nine restored, period rooms decorated with ceramic and glass artifacts from the 19th century.

The current exhibition, "Memories Past and Present," showcases six artists whose work reflects the mansion's history and its surrounding community, including paintings from Misha McGlown's collection, such as "Love Story: Portrait of Paul and Eslanda Robeson" and "Harlem Renaissance Composer."

OMO MISHA

347-339-9812; OmoMishaGallery.com

A prominent artist and curator, Misha McGlown has been painting professionally since 2006. She specializes in abstract-landscape compositions, figurative paintings inspired by African art, and oil portraiture. She has been chosen to create the art installations for the Harlem River Park.

Although McGlown doesn't have a physical gallery, her work is shown in galleries around Harlem and you can purchase her work online from her Web site.

MUSEUM OF ART AND ORIGINS

430 W. 162nd St.; 212-740-9999; museumofartandorigins.org

Opened in 2005, this gallery features a wide variety of art ranging from classical African art, contemporary photography and East Asian art. It also focuses on the restoration of works of art in wood and textiles.

Currently on view is "Vanishing Cultures of the Black Atlantic: Photography 1969-2001," featuring the works of acclaimed photographers such as Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, George Nelson Preston and Adger W. Cowans.

Call for appointment.