

# Hyde Park**ARTCENTER** Gallery 4

July 6 - October 12, 2008

## A Kiss on the Cheek **Portraits by Dale Washington**



*Adedayo Layoe (Dayo), 2008, mixed media, 22 x 28 inches*

## Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

### **Exhibition Reception:**

Sunday, August 3, 3 - 5 pm

### **Gallery Hours:**

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 8pm

Friday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

On most Sunday afternoons Dale Washington hosts an open studio in his South Shore apartment (think Louise Bourgeois and her Sunday salon). Established and emerging artists, musicians, poets and thinkers all gather here each with their own creative voice. Walking through this exhibition, you can view some of these people. Check out Sam Greenlee, the writer and activist; Deborah Harrington, the president of a community organizing foundation in Chicago; Daniel Parker, author, writer for *N'digo* Magazine and African American art collector; and many other friends, family, colleagues, mentors all linked through the artist. The title of the exhibition, *Kiss on the Cheek*, refers to Washington's sincere fondness for the people he meets and the manner in which he is known to greet friends and acquaintances alike.



Lowell Thompson  
2007  
ink  
23 1/2 x 16 inches (framed)

Washington works in many mediums to produce a variety of artforms: painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, and assemblage. For this exhibition, he first took digital photographs of all of the individuals in informal day-to-day settings, which are then used as source material

for the final artwork. As a result, the compositions are candid and offer a real-life glimpse into Chicago's dynamic arts network. His artistic style is predominantly expressionistic and abstract containing quick lines on paper or a thick stroke of paint on canvas. His technique may be viewed as a dichotomy changing from one sitter to the next, but each picture is



Exhibition Installation, July 2008

completely vibrant and alive, bringing forth an expression or characteristic associated with his subject.

The artworks in *Kiss on the Cheek* are organized deliberately according to connections between individuals that make the creative community in Chicago thrive. A brightly colored gesture painting of Dalton Brown is positioned in a central location between two windows to emphasize Brown's role in introducing Washington to the Chicago art scene nearly ten years ago. Washington attributes Brown as the cornerstone of all of these relationships. To the left of the gallery's south entrance are 8 paintings that pay homage to the

founding members of the Diasporal Rhythms, a vital group of collectors of contemporary art works by artists of African descent ([www.diasporalrhythms.net](http://www.diasporalrhythms.net)).

The wall in the center of the gallery contains 11 portraits of different collectors of Washington's work. Artworks positioned on the exterior walls of the gallery contain a mixture of arts administrators, musicians, gallery owners, curators and artists. In the smaller gallery, a combination of drawings and paintings hung haphazardly reflect the appearance of Washington's studio over the past year while creating this extensive body of work. This exhibition features 85 artworks out of over 250 works that were produced for this project.



Eve Ewing and Dale Washington  
2008  
mixed media  
21 x 27 inches

Allison Peters Quinn  
Director of Exhibitions

Erin Thadani  
Exhibitions Assistant

Dale Washington is a teaching artist at the Hyde Park Art Center. Recent exhibitions include a solo show at the Hyde Park Art Center in 2007 and group exhibitions at Gruen Gallery, the South Shore Cultural Center, the South Side Community Art Center, and Mijiza's Gallery. Washington was the recipient of the 2003 Artist of the Year Award from the South Side Community Art Center and is a featured artist in the catalogue *African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond*, documenting the collection of Chicagoan Daniel T. Parker. Washington received a B.A. from Columbia College and attended Columbus College of Art and Design and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The artworks in *Kiss on the Cheek* are supported in part by a grant awarded to Dale Washington from the Chicago Artist Assistance Program through the Department of Cultural Affairs for the City of Chicago.