



By Don Thomas

Friends of Randy Weston presents “The Man and His Music” exhibit

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Icon Randy Weston

Celebrating 16 years of presenting visual arts and jazz music, Visual Arts and Jazzfest NYC™ will conclude its 2019 festival with their annual Year End Holiday Celebration with the opening of the exhibition Randy Weston “The Man and His Music” in honor of the late, great Guggenheim Fellow, NEA Jazz Master, Pianist, Composer, and Cultural Icon Randy Weston.

Fondly known as “America’s African Musical Ambassador,” Weston’s seven decade contribution of musical direction and genius makes him one of the world’s foremost pianists and composers today.

In partnership with the Friends of Randy Weston and the Fulton Art Fair, Inc., the celebration will include an art and photo display celebrating his life and music. The exhibition will be on display from Dec., 16th 2019 through January 16th 2020 at the historic Stuyvesant Mansion in Brooklyn, New York. The kick off reception will be held on Mon., Dec., 16th, 6pm to 8 pm.

Since the debut of the exhibition series formerly known as Visual Expressions on Jazz™ at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center in 1999, this marks the start of the 19 year relationship that Weston had with Arts and Jazzfest NYC™.

“Over the years Randy has been a strong supporter and mentor for us” states Artist/

through their work.

“To spend over 19 years with a genius such as Randy Weston who always stayed connected with the community and always made time to work with and inspire younger generations has greatly impacted everyone musically and visually.

“Randy was never too busy and never too far away to reach back and perform in our festival or participate in one of our many educational forums. Early on, Randy recognized the need for a festival such as Arts and Jazzfest NYC™ because of its mission to present the visual side of jazz through so many wonderful creative expressions and enable both visual artists and musicians to come together to showcase their work.

“We are forever grateful for his friendship, guidance, and his musical contributions and that is why it was very important for us to end the year with an exhibition celebrating his life and commitment to people everywhere,” says Black.

On display will be the works of many emerging, established, and prominent visual artists such Otto Neals, Sadikisha Collier, Larry Weekes, Nina Hellman, Elton Leonard, Sonia Barnett, Tamme Hunt, Nate Ladson, Katherine Harrison, Curator/



Artist/Curator Gwendolyn Black

Historian Gene Alexander Peters of Sankofa Exhibits, arts patron Kevin W. Thorbourne, and Artist/Curator Gwendolyn Black among others,

To continue the 16 year celebration, special activities will include a panel discussion, film presentation and children’s activities at the Stuyvesant Mansion in January along with a display of a 20ft long mural dedicated to the

hit tune “A Night in Tunisia” in the Village of Harlem that was created by community residents and artists along with adults with disabilities from the AHRC day program from 2011 until 2012. For further information about the schedule of events, visit www.artsandjazzfestny.com and for sponsorship opportunities or email gwenblackarts@yahoo.com.



Historic Stuyvesant Mansion 375 Stuy-Ave. Brooklyn