



Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Contact: George Palovich  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Rhonda "Shakur" Carter: "The Many Faces of Me"  
November 28, 2008 through March 1, 2009**

On the day after Thanksgiving Rhonda "Shakur" Carter's exhibition entitled "The Many Faces of Me" opens at West Valley Art Museum in Surprise, AZ. Carter's works defy classification as they can be called painting or sculpture. Elements project from the surface, cutouts play exuberantly across the picture plane and rectangular constraints do not seem to matter to Rhonda as she quite happily lets the shape grow into what it will be.

Born in Los Angeles, Shakur enjoyed creating from an early age. She built stage sets in Elementary school, attended USC's Summer Art classes for the gifted and drew from television, magazines and her sweet grandmother's face. Her grandparents and their friends including actress Beah Richards, often told her old stories of history, describing scenes, smells and strange whispers through the trees. Those moments and stories inspire her to create her present works in wood today.

Her exhibitions have included the Afro-American Art Museum, William Grant Still Museum and the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. She has created her own wood puzzles and was asked to sell and display them at the Early Education Center where children of Denzel Washington, Jamie Lee Curtis, Magic Johnson and Jack Nicholson attended.

Of her work she says, "Expression through art has always captured me in regards to life, the marriage between the two, and the wonder of many interpretations . . . I admire those organizations that make way for artists to be seen and heard. Participating in those communities (such as yours) does good for everyone. I enjoy creating from anything I can get my hands on, and in that creation I like to share what I have done with others. I've been so inspired by many other artists and life situations, there's always something new and exciting to see and perhaps think of in a different light or view. I believe that children and adults deserve indulgence in a 'soul release' or the 'spirit that flows within'. That type of freedom is very important for us all."

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With nine exhibition galleries, a Museum Store and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is an admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.

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Website: [www.wvam.org](http://www.wvam.org)



“Cousins” mixed media by “Shakur”



“Apron Strings” mixed media  
by “Shakur”



“Augustine” mixed media by “Shakur”

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