

WEST VALLEY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ART MUSEUM

**ABC: Artists Of The Black Community
September 15 - November 26, 2006**

This fall West Valley Art Museum welcomes back the ABC exhibition; Artists of the Black Community. A show encompassing nearly all the mediums in art from painting to sculpture, this year's exhibition maintains the energy and vibrancy of past exhibitions.

Rhonda Shakur, born in Los Angeles, enjoyed creating from an early age. She created stage sets in elementary school, attended USC's Summer Art classes for the gifted and drew from television, magazines and her Grandmother's face. Her Grandparents as well as their friends which included actress Beah Richards, often told her stories of history, describing scenes which eventually inspired her to create her present works in wood today. In 1980 she was asked to exhibit in the Prominent Black Art Exhibit, in Los Angeles, CA along with great artists such as Charles Bibbs, Varnette Honeywood, and Charles White. Shakur, born Rhonda Carter, took classes at West Valley, Trade Tech and Pierce Colleges. She has exhibited at the Afro-American Art Museum, William Grant Still Museum and the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. Here in Arizona she has exhibited at the Black Chamber of Commerce and received a friendship award. Shakur has done various shows in the City of Phoenix and was commissioned to do two pieces for the city's public art panel project.

Charice Mabry refined her gifts under the diverse instruction of the late Rip Woods at Arizona State University and Earle Linderman of New York. Ms. Mabry has been painting in Arizona and has displayed many works since 1991. She is a humanitarian noted for her work with at risk youth and has received many awards including Who's Who among Americas Teachers for the years 2002-2006, after attaining her Masters in Educational Counseling from the University of Phoenix. Watercolor is her favorite medium, but she also has works displayed in ceramics, acrylics, oils, indigo ink, conté, pastels and charcoal. Currently, Ms. Mabry renders private Art Therapy sessions in the homes of at-risk and autistic clients. Ms. Mabry is also a counselor for a private agency and is a student seeking her doctorate.

A native New Yorker, Bob Martin was encouraged at a young age to pursue fine arts and studied at the Art Student League of New York as a teenager. It was at this time that he discovered the world of Cézanne, Degas and most importantly, to him, Modigliani. He has said that he also noticed the relationships between Duke Ellington and Gershwin, Miles Davis and Beethoven, Romare Bearden and Proust. All of these artists have influenced his approach to how he views painting and the world. In addition to traditional studies, he has made many trips to the Caribbean, particularly Haiti, where the bold use of color and shapes by local artists also influenced his work.

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 five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, 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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“The Candy Store”
by Rhonda Shakur Carter

Martin has recently enjoyed several one-man and group exhibitions in Arizona and is a featured artist at the Park Gallery in Litchfield Park. His work is in the private collections in New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Scottsdale, St. Louis, Kansas City, San Francisco and Paris.

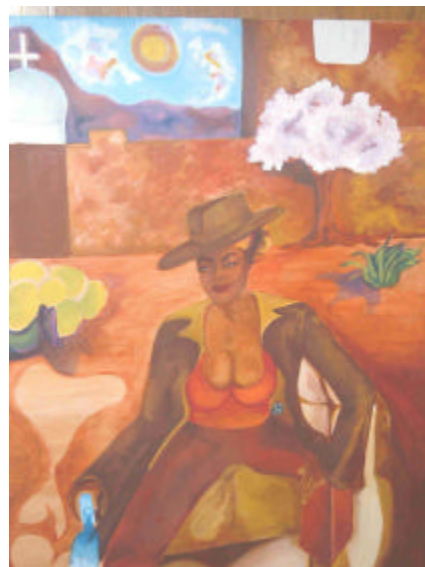
These are just a few of the many outstanding artists represented in this year’s exhibition.



“Blue Angel” oil by
Bob Martin



Bob Martin



“Family 016” oil by Charice Mabry



Charice Mabry

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