

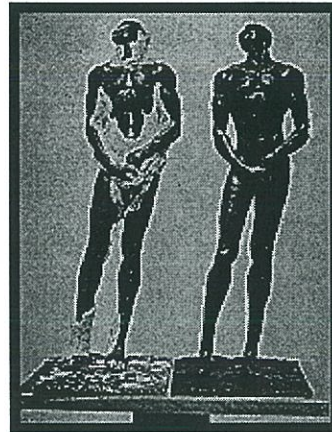
Emerging into Spirit: Sculptures by Artis Lane

ROM displays dramatic sculptures as part of CELAFI celebrations

May 28 to August 24, 1997



Artis Lane with "First Man"



Maquette of "First Man Dialogue"

Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) welcomes the work of internationally-respected sculptor Artis Lane who returns home as part of the CELAFI (Celebrating African Identity) Conference and Festival that will showcase the best black Canadian and international artists this summer.

Lane has exhibited in galleries throughout the U.S. and has completed numerous portrait commissions, including portraits of John and Jacqueline Kennedy, Nelson Mandela, and Mrs. George Bush. Her bronze bust of Rosa Parks, the mother of the U.S. civil rights movement, is in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. She also created the bronze bust of basketball great Ervin 'Magic' Johnson that his teammates presented to him the day he retired. Lane's figurative pieces have been collected by Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Sidney Poitier, and former Ontario lieutenant-governor Lincoln Alexander, among others.

Lane (née Shreve) was born in 1927 in North Buxton, Ontario and studied at the Ontario College of Art, the University of Toronto, Cranbrooke Art Academy in Michigan, and UCLA. She currently lives in New Mexico.

Lane's "First Man Dialogue" will be on display from May 28 to August 24, 1997 on the ROM's Canadian Heritage Floor. These two larger-than-life bronze figures (2 metres / 6' 7" high) are part of a series titled *Emerging into Spirit*. In describing these pieces, Lane comments "I leave the workings of the foundry and ceramic shell mold

on the bronze -- in essence the birthing materials of the foundry -- to symbolize Generic Man emerging out of material thinking into spiritual consciousness. The figures are exhibited in pairs, one in the traditional black patina and the other in natural bronze emerging out of the ceramic shell to illustrate the constant dialogue between the spiritual and material sides of man. Are thoughts divine or human?"

Lane's own African heritage, combined with her study of Egyptian art and African sculpture, led her to challenge the art historical concept of 'classic' and use African and African-American models to symbolize Universal Man.

Emerging into Spirit: Sculptures by Artis Lane is part of the international CELAFI celebrations taking place at venues throughout Toronto during the summer, with the official conference and festival July 9 to 13. CELAFI is presented by *Canadian Artists Network: Black Artists in Action* and showcases the best black Canadian and international artists, including performers, visual artists, filmmakers, authors, craftspeople and cybertechnologists.

Emerging into Spirit is included with Museum admission which is \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors, students and children; and \$22 for family groups (up to two adults and up to four youths 17 years of age and under). For 24-hour information in English and French call (416) 586-8000.

The Royal Ontario Museum is an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Emerging into Spirit is presented by CELAFI in partnership with the ROM and the Beverly Mascoll Community Foundation as the kick-off event for CELAFI 1997 *Celebrating African Identity : Entering the Millennium*, July 9-13, 1997.

CELAFI Conference and Festival is organized by Canadian Artists Network: Black Artists in Action.

CELAFI is financially supported by all levels of the Canadian government including:

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the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto; Toronto Arts Council;

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