



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

WATTS UP

Watts Towers Arts Center &
Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center
1727 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002

September – December 2010
Contact: Rosie Lee Hooks, Director
Phone: 213. 847-4646

October 28, 2010 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Watts Towers Arts Center

The Jazz Mentorship Program presents

Playing for Change

“The act of playing music with people of different cultures, religions, economics and politics is a powerful statement. It shows that we can find ways of working together and sharing our experiences with one another in a positive way. Music has the power to break down the walls between cultures, to raise the level of human understanding.”

~ Mark Johnson, founder, Playing for Change

January 31, 2010 – January 9, 2011

Watts Towers Arts Center, Noah Purifoy Gallery

HELD OVER TIL JANUARY 2011

Wisdom Knots & Other Symbols

An exhibition of Monoprints created in 2006

by

Varnette P. Honeywood

This powerful exhibition explores the Adinkra Symbols of West Africa.

Curator: **CCH Pounder**

August 2010

Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center, Mingus Gallery

... & Other Symbols

An exhibition of student artwork from the Watts Towers Summer Arts Camp inspired by Varnette P. Honeywood and the Adinkra Symbols

Curator: Rosie Lee Hooks

Symbols are so much a part of our lives that we don't even recognize these arbitrary signs as symbols. These non verbal images function to communicate information much in the same way as and sometimes instead of verbal expression.

Simon Rodia's Watts Towers are a symbol recognized around the world and are a unique treasure in Watts. This image is sought after on a daily basis by media outlets, filmmakers, film students, promoters, clothing designers, recording artists, politicians, entrepreneurs, event planners, wedding parties, visual artists, performing artists, historians, conservators, etc.

Why? Maybe because of the historical prestige it exudes. This Historic Preservation site represents the small man and woman, in a large way: The regular everyday person with aspirations of greatness and the need to do something big, with ordinary simple things. When we look closely at the Watts Towers, the symbols are in the eye of the beholder. Some see pyramids, hearts, humor, a ship sailing toward Italy, a garden, a cake, a baptismal, a magnificent architectural wonder, a sculptural masterpiece, a guiding light into past, present and future, and more.

So, we will continue to use our imagination to dream, to invent, to build and express ourselves through non verbal ways that are just as viable to a world that sometimes talks too much. Let us continue to explore and develop new ways to communicate with old and new ways of expression through active imagination incorporating visual codes and non verbal communication.

... & Other Symbols is a continuation of our experience of **Varnette P. Honeywood's Wisdom Knots & Other Symbols**, as seen through the eyes of our young people from the **Summers Arts Camp Kids**. They designed the Poster Art for **The 29th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and **the 34th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival**. Their artwork can be found on postcards in our Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center Museum Store.

September 25, 2010 - January 9, 2011

Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center, Mingus Gallery

***Migrating Towers:
the Gigli of Nola and Beyond***

Curators: **Felice Ceparano**, Director, Museo Etnomusicale di Nola
Katia Ballacchino, Ph.D., Università di Roma, La Sapienza

October 18 – November 3, 2010

Istituto Italiano Di Cultura

Sabato Rodia's Towers in Watts

Curators: **Rosie Lee Hooks**, Director,
Watts Towers Arts Center,
Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center
Jo Farb Hernandez, Director, S.P.A.C.E.S.

SCREENING

Fertile Ground: Stories from the Watts Towers Arts Center

by Rosie Lee Hooks & S. Pearl Sharp

October 21-24, 2010

Royce Hall, UCLA, Hammer Museum & Watts Towers Campus

***THE WATTS TOWERS COMMON GROUND INITIATIVE:
ART, MIGRATIONS, DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE***

October 24, 2010

Watts Towers Campus

A Day in Watts

A visit to the Watts Towers, the Watts Towers Arts Center, Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center: *Migrating Towers* exhibition in the Mingus Gallery, Watts Community Labor Action Committee, includes conference sessions.

Sunday, January 9, 2011 1:30 P.M.

Please join us for a

Special Tribute to Varnette P. Honeywood

Noah Purifoy Gallery – Watts Towers Arts Center

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS

Tour the world-renowned WATTS TOWERS OF SIMON RODIA!

Come view the magnificent Towers and learn about the fascinating man who created this renowned work of art. It took Simon Rodia 33 years to build the Watts Towers. Watch a 10-minute short in which Simon Rodia explains in his own words, why and how he created the Watts Towers.

Tour hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

DR. JOSEPH AND BOOTSIE HOWARD GALLERY

The Watts Towers Arts Center is the home of the International Ethnic Instrument Collection consisting of 144 primarily non-western instruments collected from around the world. This wonderful collection was donated by Dr. Joseph Howard to the WTAC in 1989.

Gallery hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. & Sunday 12 p.m.– 4 p.m.

UPDATE

Watts Towers Arts Center & Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

Budget & Programming

- ***We continue to face budget cuts***
although much of our programming budget has been reinstated.
- *The Educational Coordinator/Art Instructor has been fully reinstated.*
- *We are working to find ways to continue as many of our Youth Programs as possible.*



WHEN YOU VISIT - HAVE A LOOK AT THE

Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center Museum Store

Available now

The Watts Towers 50 Years Inspiring Art
Commemorative Program 1959-2009

NEW AT THE
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center Museum Store



Watts Towers Charms



THANK YOU

For holding us up and preserving

*The Watts Towers Arts Center
The Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center*

*And continuing arts education programming
at the Watts Towers Campus*

THANK YOU

Councilmember Janice Hahn

Councilmember Tom LaBonge

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Councilmember Ed Reyes

City of Los Angeles City Council

The Greater Watts Community

Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center

Staff of the Watts Towers Arts Center & The Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

Watts Towers Community Action Council

The Committee for Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

Mayor's Task Force

Artists and musicians

Local, national and international visitors to the Watts Campus

And to the thousands of others who added their voices
to save this essential, 50 year old Arts Education Institute
and Community Arts Center!



Ask about our fundraising projects

**Heart of Watts Project
Limited Edition T-shirts**

**Watts Towers Project
Watts Towers Pins**

WISH LIST

**Grand Piano
Sculpture of Simon Rodia
String Bass
Photo Archivist
Mural Restoration**

**Computers and Printers
Sculpture of Charles Mingus
Official Website (Design & Hosting)
Replacement of lost trees
Upgraded Sound System**

Additional Staff

Marquis for Watts Towers Arts Center & Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

Representation of the Watts Towers in the DWP Holiday Lights at Griffith Park



Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center

HAS A NEW WEBSITE

www.wattstowers.org