

# Biggs Museum of American Art

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## **CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FORGES NEW MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP Between the Biggs Museum and DEMCO, Inc**



*Africa Woman, acrylic on canvas, by G.L. Shamir*

**Dover, DE (November 4, 2015)** –The Biggs Museum is proud to present artworks from the after-school program instructors and students of its newest community partnership, The Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization (DEMCO, Inc.).

The exhibition of drawings and paintings, featuring an important series of collage works produced under the Substance Abuse Prevention Narratives project, will be on view in the Biggs Museum's Child HELP Foundation Gallery now through November 15, 2015.

“The Biggs Museum, like any art institution within Delaware, needs to be vitally aligned with and in service to the community, especially at-risk youth and vulnerable families”, says Biggs Museum Director Charles A. Guerin. “We hope that through art and art historical programming, the museum can make positive and lasting changes within the challenged communities of Delaware that need it the most.”

The Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization (DEMCO, Inc.) is a Dover non-profit organization offering educational support and counseling in Kent County. DEMCO, Inc. offers classes, workshops and tutoring to learners from kindergarten to adults. This organization specializes in educational topics for all members of the family, and at all stages of life, including:

- Economics
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Science
- Fine Art
- Coping skills
- Leadership
- Languages
- Substance abuse prevention
- High school completion
- College preparation exams
- Teacher certification

The Biggs Museum is beginning a new formal relationship with The Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization (DEMCO, Inc.), an important civic organization, to host monthly groups of after-school-program students at the museum for intensive art historical study and hands-on activities. The Biggs Museum of American Art is proud to celebrate this new relationship of fine art and art historical instruction with this inaugural art exhibition, simply entitled *DEMCO, Inc.*, of student and staff artworks created during their after-school program.

Biggs Museum Curator, Ryan Grover, states that, “Art programming, while showing students some of the best aspects of the human experience anywhere, can also strengthen skills that positively affect academics, build personal confidence and mold social connectivity.”



*Untitled collage, mixed media, by Janaye Scott*

A portion of this current exhibition features works created within the Substance Abuse Prevention Narratives project. The DEMCO artists and instructors created this series of collages as narratives, a kind of pictorial story, of Abuse Prevention. This project challenges

artists such as G.L. Shamir, Desiree Wilson and Dr. Linda Hackett to channel the lessons of noted artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Gustave Courbet, Ben Shan and Jacob Lawrence to create new works that embody the message of Prevention. Funding for this project (SP020704) has been provided by the Department for Health and Social Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health-State of Delaware through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

### **About the Museum**

The Biggs Museum seeks to serve a diverse public as a regional museum of fine and decorative arts, made from 1700 to present, representing the State of Delaware and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region. The Biggs Museum engages audiences through a compelling program of temporary exhibitions and programming. The Biggs Museum encourages the development of creativity and an appreciation for art by offering a comprehensive slate of educational programming for all ages. The Biggs Museum of American Art is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

**Hours of Operation:** Tuesday through Saturday; 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Sunday; 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**\*Admission:** Admission to the Biggs Museum is \$10. Seniors (60 and older) are \$8. Members, children under 12, students and military (with ID) are free. Additional fees may apply to certain programs and special events.

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