



Cultural Arts Council
of Douglasville/Douglas County

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2014

For more information call
Cristhian Perez Molina
770.949.ARTS (2787)

Celebrating Black History Month: Images of African-American Life in Georgia

Douglasville, Georgia – In celebration of Black History Month, the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is partnering with the Auburn Avenue Research Library to present *Photography on the Color Line*, a photographic exhibition on the lives and achievements of African American Georgians at the turn of the twentieth century. In conjunction with the photograph collection, local artist Evon Strickland will exhibit a selection of family portraits done in crochet; and, local artist John Martin will display a selection of his pen & ink drawings of famous African-Americans. The exhibit opens on Thursday, January 15th and will remain on view through February 22nd. Hosted by the Douglas County Connections, the opening reception will be held Saturday, January 31st, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Council. Jazz pianist, Rico Henry, will be performing during the reception. Gallery admission, tour and reception are free. Special gallery tours are also available by calling the CAC to schedule an appointment – 770.949.2787.

Curated by Dr. Shawn Michelle Smith, the *Photography on the Color Line* exhibit epitomizes the efforts of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, professor of sociology at Atlanta University, to refute racial stereotypes and ideas of inferiority that were prevalent in the United States and abroad. This exhibition consists of 26 reproduced photographs which are part of the over 500 photographs that were displayed at the 1900 Paris Exposition, and were selected from Dr. Du Bois' two albums – *Negro Life in Georgia* and *Types of American Negroes in Georgia, U.S.A.*. The exhibit, *Photography on the Color Line*, was donated to the Auburn Avenue Research Library by Dr. Smith.

Artist Evon Strickland was born in the rural Spring Branch community of South Carolina. In 1973, Evon taught herself how to crochet but it wasn't until 2012 – after taking a crocheting class at the Bowden Multipurpose Senior Center – that she re-awoke her appreciation for the arts. While researching her ancestry, Evon realized that there were few or no pictures of her ancestors. So, by crocheting the pictures of the babies in the family this would give them an opportunity to remember her while also peak their interest to learn more about their family members.

Artist John Martin, a military veteran of 30 years, is a self-taught artist. His work, mostly in watercolor, pencil, and pen & ink, has been displayed privately and in government buildings – including the State Department in Washington, DC. He has also had exhibits in libraries, schools, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and other cities where his military assignments took him.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County, located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, is open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For directions and more information, visit www.artsdouglas.org or contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770.949.2787.

####

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups.
The Cultural Arts Council is supported in part by the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.