



**Peckham
Space**

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The South London Black Music Archive

Barby Asante

17 January – 24 March 2012

Peckham Space, Camberwell College of Art, 89 Peckham High Street, London SE15 5RS

Launch event 17 January 6-8pm, Artists' talk 3rd February 18.45pm

Peckham Space presents The South London Black Music Archive, an exhibition by artist Barby Asante that aims to celebrate, preserve and investigate South Londoners' personal relationships with moments in black music history.

Peckham Space will be transformed into an 'open archive' mapping objects which represent and explore the personal stories which comprise the fascinating history of the influence and evolution of black music in South London. Welcoming contributions from the public, this archive will include items such as books, magazines, concert tickets, posters, stories, records and CDs gathered and displayed with the reverence of museum pieces. Asante's selected objects highlighting seminal moments in this history will share the same platform as visitors' objects and stories depicting their own experiences through music and memorabilia.

One of the founding items of the South London Black Music Archive will be a 'limited edition' vinyl specially produced for the project as a result of the artist's collaboration with young people from the Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) mentoring programme. This artwork was created in association with Regeneration & Community Partnerships, Tate Modern with an exclusive record sleeve by graphic design collective Åbäke. Copies will be available from record shops across South London and at Peckham Space for the duration of the exhibition. It will feature Asante's own take on the BBC's 'inheritance tracks' for which members of LOT were asked to contribute songs that inspire them. Songs chosen include tracks by Adele, Michael Jackson, Edvard Grieg, Nigerian singer Prince Nico Mbarga, Bob Dylan and Lauryn Hill which will be represented as a soundscape alongside recordings of the young people telling the stories and explaining their selections.

Barby Asante said: *"The influence of black music on the development on popular music is often overlooked. Black music has also played a significant role in the development of British culture from the 1950's and this is a great opportunity to provide a platform for people to consider the significance of this cultural activity on their lives."*

LOT member Mayowa Sofekun said of a track she has contributed to the project: *"I have chosen Sweet Mother as my inheritance track as it is associated with some of my oldest memories as a child. When the song is played at all occasions whether it be a party, wedding, or even a funeral, everybody, both young and old will get up to dance and thank their mothers."*

The South London Black Music Archive at Peckham Space heralds the sixth exhibition at London's newest purpose-built art venue which opened in June 2010 with a new approach to commissioning, making and exhibiting art. Peckham Space is an arts organisation that is part of Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London.

Free public events will take place during the exhibition, including the artist's talk at Tate Modern on 3rd February 2012 and the Daytime Disco on Windrush Square, Brixton on 10th March 2012. Please call **020 7358 9645** or info@peckhamspace.com for more information.

For further information and press enquiries please contact Sarah McLean on 07904637569 or info@peckhamspace.com

Notes for Editors

- **Barby Asante** studied Fine Art at the University of East London, where she began making work in film and photography, placing herself in the frame as a means of confronting the audience with the perceived problem of her image. In 2001 she was invited to be artist in residence at the 198 Gallery. Still exploring themes of identity, she wanted to develop creative working strategies that shifted the gaze back onto the person who was looking. *Wig Therapy (2001)* invited its audience to take part by becoming the artist's client, using wigs to explore identity and our desires around our identities. She has since made the idea of participation and dialogue a defining part of her practice, and her events and performances invite participants to consider ideas of self-expression and the performance of identity through interactive experiences. Recent works include *The Funk Chorus*, a non-professional choir who have performed in several galleries including Tate Britain and The National Portrait Gallery, *Barby's Karaoke* (Studio Voltaire 2009), *Bamboo Memories* (Picture This 2009) or *The Sarsaparilla Summit*, (Serpentine Gallery 2009/10).
- **Leaders of Tomorrow** was established in 2002 and has since benefited approximately 600 learners, with 70 participating in the annual Business Education Conference in the USA. The programme is designed to identify and support able and underachieving learners aged 14-18 who possess leadership skills and have an aptitude for business and entrepreneurship.
- **Regeneration & Community Partnerships, Tate Modern** have a commitment to working with a range of local audiences in Southwark and Lambeth both inside and outside of the gallery. Through the 'Tate Local' programme we aim to foster a series of different partnership projects, events and collaborations with a wide variety of organisations and artists that make strong connections with key audiences in South London. <http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/transformingtmc/community.htm>
- **Åbåke** is a collective of four graphic designers: Patrick Lacey from the UK, Kajsa Stahl from Sweden, Benjamin Reichen and Maki Suzuki from France, who decided to work together in the summer of 2000. Their physical work includes posters, CD and record designs, furniture and installations in art galleries and public spaces. Much of their work concentrates on the social aspect of design and the strength that collaboration can bring to a project. Events often involve (in no particular order) film, dancing, eating and cooking and teaching. <http://abake.fr/>
- **Peckham Space** is London's newest purpose-built public gallery dedicated to commissioning location-specific artworks made in partnership with community groups. Located on Peckham Square, London SE15 and part of Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London, it seeks to encourage progression routes for young people into creative higher education as well as increase access to cultural and educational activity in Peckham, London SE15. Peckham Space is funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF), Southwark Council and Arts Council England. The permanent venue, designed by PENSON, opened on Saturday 12 June 2010.
- **Peckham Space** has been delivering collaborative arts projects since June 2008. The Director Emily Druiff has worked as an independent curator with particular interest in participatory practice, new media and art in the public realm. Peckham Space commissioned artists have so far include David Cotterrell, Jessica Voorsanger, Harold Offeh, Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre, FREEE, Gayle Chong Kwan, The People Speak, Lottie Child & Furtherfield.org, and Neal White & Manu Luksch. www.peckhamspace.com

Listings information

Peckham Space – The South London Black Music Archive by Barby Asante

Peckham Space, Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London
89 Peckham High Street, London SE15 5RS

Opening times

17 January – 24 March 2012. FREE

Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday 11am-4pm, closed Sundays, Mondays.

Talks and Events

Launch event 17 January 2011, 6-8pm at Peckham Space

Artist's talk 3 February at Tate Modern

Daytime Disco 10 March 2011 at the Ritzy, Windrush Square, Brixton

For full programme information visit www.peckhamspace.com or contact 020 7358 9645, info@peckhamspace.com

Transport:

Buses: 343 from London Bridge, 78 from Liverpool Street/Aldgate, 12 or 171 from Elephant & Castle, 36 or 436 from Victoria/Oval

Rail: Peckham Rye and Queens Road direct from London Bridge



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