

NEW
235 BOWERY
NEW YORK NY
10002 USA
MUSEUM

TEL +1 212.219.1222
FAX +1 212.431.5328
newmuseum.org

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Contact: Gabriel Einsohn, New Museum
press@newmuseum.org

Note: All film crew must be scheduled through New Museum or Groundswell

Emory Douglas Mural Celebrates Work of Legendary Black Panther
“What We Want, What We Believe” Currently Under Creation in Harlem

Fifteen youth from Harlem are currently working with Groundswell artists Chris Beck and Clare Herron to create a monumental mural inspired by the work of legendary artist and former Black Panther Emory Douglas. The mural project **“What We Want, What We Believe”** is in conjunction with the major retrospective **“Emory Douglas: Black Panther”** currently on view at the New Museum on the Bowery through October 18, 2009.

Emory Douglas was the Revolutionary Artist of the Black Panther Party and later became its Minister of Culture. From the 1960's until the party disbanded in 1980 he created the design and layout, and oversaw production for the party's newspaper, the “Black Panther.” Douglas created a vocabulary of images that exemplify how art can encourage political consciousness and function within an activist context. In partnership with **New Museum** and **The Studio Museum** in Harlem, **Groundswell** youth and artists are bringing to life an original design based on Douglas's work and utilizing his distinctive graphic style. The mural, entitled **“What We Want, What We Believe”**, will be the first large scale public artwork celebrating the work of Emory Douglas in New York City.

Painting will continue **until August 12th**, with a dedication ceremony tentatively scheduled for September 3. Please contact the New Museum or Groundswell to visit the site.

Mural Location: VIM Store, 2253 Third Avenue (122nd St & Third Avenue), New York, NY 10035

In preparation for the mural project, students attended workshops at the New Museum and Studio Museum to learn about the social and political history that gave rise to the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and the larger Black Power Movement. As part of the design research process, the students canvassed the neighborhood and interviewed locals to discuss the issues that the communities felt were most relevant, the most common topics being education, health care, and unity. Working with researched ideas and concerns, the students, Emory Douglas, and mural artists Chris Beck and Clare Herron choose to “remix” images from three of Douglas's earlier images from the “Black Panther” newspaper, with two of his more recent images, and also integrating newly created designs meant to illustrate the community's core concerns. The resulting mural “What We Want, What We Believe” will be a reflection of past, present, and future.



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About New Museum

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the 2007 inauguration of its new building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas. The New Museum is located in New York's Lower East Side at 235 Bowery at Prince Street. For more information about the current exhibition "Emory Douglas: Black Panther" visit newmuseum.org. If you are a member of the media, please contact Gabriel Einsohn, Communications Director at press@newmuseum.org.



About Groundswell

Groundswell is a New York City based nonprofit organization founded in 1996 that brings together professional artists, grassroots organizations and communities in partnership to create high quality works of public art in under-represented neighborhoods. Groundswell's work inspires youth, communities and artists to take active ownership of their future and equips them with the tools necessary for social change. For more information visit www.groundswellmural.org. "What We Want, What We Believe" is project is part of Groundswell's Summer Leadership Institute, where 90 young people (ages 14-24) are right now working with professional artists to create six large-scale works of public art - bringing to life the histories, stories and hopes of their communities using New York's walls as their canvas.



About The Studio Museum

The Studio Museum in Harlem is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent locally, nationally and globally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture, through its exhibitions, Artists-in-Residence program, education and public programming, permanent collection, and archival and research facilities. Since opening in 1968 The Studio Museum in Harlem has been committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer. The Museum provides a context within which to address the contemporary and historical issues presented through art by artists of African descent.

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