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 Check out our blog: "A Studio Incarnate"
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Find out more about Lavar Munroe: www.lavar-munroe.com
Cover Image: *Your Silent Screams (Strength and Struggle)*

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion is a program of Wesley Theological Seminary. The Center sponsors a variety of cultural events which explore the intersection of art and religion. All contributions are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted.

The Dadian Gallery
www.wesleyseminary.edu/lcar.aspx
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STRENGTH AND STRUGGLE :
HAITI CONTINUED
works by Lavar Munroe

August 22 – October 14th, 2011

HENRY LUCE III
CENTER
for the
Arts and
Religion
DADIAN GALLERY

The visually daring and technically innovative works of Bahamian-born artist Lavar Munroe in *Strength and Struggle: Haiti Continued* explore the struggle and suffering of the Haitian people in the aftermath of the catastrophic 2010 earthquake. Through his raw but complex images, Munroe calls the viewer's attention to the difficulties inherent in rebuilding the Haitian nation and the religious tensions between Christianity and Vodou. Chickens become an important symbol in Munroe's work, referencing cockfighting, the plight of the Haitian people, reincarnation, food issues and Vodou. He also makes use of religious symbols, various animals, and architectural elements to further illuminate his narrative.

Munroe's method of working, which combines traditional drawing that is then scanned and digitally painted, also references the contrast between the lives of citizens in industrialized nations versus those striving to create basic infrastructure. The works are tough and at times disturbing, yet the singular color palette, beautifully rendered drawings, and complex compositions delight the eye. The works are a delicate balance of contradictions and chaos, both compositionally and allegorically. The many overlaid images, colors and line work contrast with the smooth printed surfaces of the paintings, adding yet another layer of contradiction.

In addition to working digitally, Munroe has combined collage elements and paint in the "Awakening Spirits" series. Throughout the "Awakening Spirits" series Munroe's anthropomorphized chickens impart strength and serenity. The texture of the paint, harmonious colors and repetitive visual elements all add to the expressiveness of the works, transforming violent and disturbing imagery into something which is simultaneously strikingly beautiful.

Alexandra Sherman
Curator, Dadian Gallery

Writing on the Wall, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Dear Lord, edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Let's Rebuild, edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Your Silent Screams (Strength and Struggle), edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Thanksgiving, edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Death Mask, edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Black Gold, edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing and digital color on baryta paper

Rat Hole, edition 1/1, 2010
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

Arc of Visibility Between Wind and Water, edition 1/1, 2011
Graphite drawing and digital color on baryta paper

Awakening Spirits 1, 2011
Acrylic and collage on pieced paper (paper quilt)

Awakening Spirits 2, 2011
Acrylic and collage on pieced paper (paper quilt)

Awakening Spirits 3, 2011
Acrylic and collage on pieced paper (paper quilt)

Capsized, edition 1/1, 2010 *
Graphite drawing, digital color, Ultrachrome K3 ink on velvet paper

* on display in the office of President McAllister-Wilson