

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHILADELPHIA (April 24, 2014)—La Salle University Art Museum is proud to present the exhibition **Barbara Bullock: *Straight Water Blues***. On view June 11–August 7, 2014. Opening reception, June 12, 5–7 p.m. Artist’s talk, June 16, 6 p.m.

Artist Barbara Bullock lives and works not far from La Salle’s campus in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Bullock has received numerous accolades for her artwork including a prestigious Pew Fellowship and a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship. Her public commissions include *Terminal B Public Art Process Commission-Releasing the Energies, Balances the Spirit*, The Philadelphia International Airport, PA (1990); and *46th Street El Dancer*, SEPTA El Station, Public Art Commission, 46th Street, Philadelphia, PA (2008).

La Salle University’s exhibition *Straight Water Blues* brings together many of Bullock’s most recent artworks. Bullock’s abstract three-dimensional sculptural forms made from acrylic paint on heavy watercolor paper evoke ancestor spirits and tell personal and shared stories. Bullock responds to current events and also expresses a sense of connection to her familial past, African American culture, and African motifs and spiritualism. These interests are reflected in her choices of titles, *Mojo* (2006); *Chasing after Spirits* (2012); *Walking in Shallow Water* (2013), etc. Bullock especially likes the idea of moving from one place or state to another, giving her recent work titles such as *House Transitioning to Ancestor* (2013) and *Gateway* (2013). Bullock chose titles from Blues songs for her series created in response to Hurricane Katrina. For example, one is titled after the Robert Johnson song *Come in My Kitchen* in which the protagonist implores a lover to come back before the storm starts. The titles connect the subject matter of the artworks to the tradition of Southern Blues, a history significant to New Orleans and the coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi hit hard by Katrina. In Bullock’s work, the interplay of vibrant color and black is always energetic even when addressing tragedy.

Supporters and co-sponsors of the exhibition and related programs include the Philadelphia Cultural Fund; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund for Education; and La Salle University’s Department of Fine Arts.

The La Salle University Art Museum is located on the lower level of Olney Hall on the campus of La Salle University at 19th Street and Olney Avenue. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. Please call to schedule group visits. Special tours can be arranged. For further information call 215.951.1221 or visit the website at <http://www.lasalle.edu/museum/>.