

NEWS

Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nigerian Artist to Host Live Drawing Performance at the Turchin Center, April 3 & 4

Boone, NC – *Nsibidi*- the philosophy where sign systems are used to convey ideas. Nigerian artist, Victor Ekpuk uses symbols from traditional African writing system, such as nsibidi, along with designs he coins and others have gathered from the world around him to create his artwork. The script that results from this is meant to create a feeling and understanding of the human experience. One symbol in a painting or drawing can represent a concept and make a statement; many symbols can form a narrative about life in the contemporary world.

Victor Ekpuk will be holding a two-day drawing performance in the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts' Mayer Gallery on April 3 and 4 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. with a break between 12:30-1:30 p.m. All visitors are welcome to stop by anytime during these hours to watch him in the gallery. His exhibition, *Drawing Memories*, opens at the Turchin Center on April 5 during the Spring Exhibition Celebration from 7-9 p.m. More information on the opening, here:

<http://tcva.org/calendar/events/826>.

About Victor Ekpuk

Ekpuk holds a BFA from the University of Ife in Nigeria and was an illustrator for several years at a major Nigerian newspaper. While he began with an exploration of "traditional symbols," his work has evolved to embrace a wider spectrum of meaning that is equally rooted in African and global contemporary art. The subject matter of Ekpuk's art deals with the human condition explained through themes that are both universal and specific: family, gender, politics, culture and identity.

His works have been featured at the 1st Johannesburg Biennale in South Africa; Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art, Washington DC; New Museum in New York; Newark

Museum, New Jersey; Yerba Buena Art Center, San Francisco; Barbican Gallery, London; Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles; the World Bank, Washington DC; among others.

Currently, Ekpuk works from his studio in Washington DC and some of his artworks are in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Newark Museum, the World Bank and private collections.

About the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts presents exhibition, education and collection programs that support Appalachian State University's role as a key regional educational, cultural and economic resource.

The Turchin Center is located at 423 West King St., in Boone. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. and Saturday, and Noon-8 p.m., Friday. The Center is closed Sunday and Monday, and observes all university holidays. There is no admission charge, although donations are gratefully accepted.

For additional details about the Turchin Center, becoming a donor, the upcoming exhibitions, to be added to the mailing list or to schedule a tour, please call (828) 262-3017 or visit www.tcva.org. You can also follow the Turchin Center on Facebook and Twitter @TurchinCenter.

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