

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: RUSSELL C. CAMPBELL III at 215.898.7798 or riii@pobox.upenn.edu

Tribute to W.E.B. Du Bois at Penn's Arthur Ross Gallery

PHILADELPHIA – the Arthur Ross Gallery, in cooperation with the Center for Africana Studies presents **Darkwater: Recital in Four Dominions, Terry Adkins after W.E.B. Du Bois**, December 14 – March 2, 2003. Du Bois completed *The Philadelphia Negro* in 1899 while an instructor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. The exhibition further celebrates 30 years of African American Studies at Penn.

Darkwater, a site-inspired exhibition by internationally renowned artist Terry Adkins, is a tribute to Du Bois: the scholar, poet, activist. The show's title comes from Du Bois' book *Darkwater: Voices within the Veil*, which was published in 1920 as a companion piece to *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903). In the Gallery, Adkins examines Du Bois and his work by way of four "dominions:" sculpture, prints, documents, and music/text, all of them relating to Du Bois' literary output and contributions.

During a previous collaboration, Adkins and Gallery Director, Dilys Winegrad, had talked about creating a tribute to W.E.B Du Bois, fusing the artist's vision with Arthur Ross Gallery's interest in giving visual expression to intellectual ideas and its dedication to community discourse through art. Says Gallery Coordinator Dejáy Byrd, who joined the Gallery's staff in time to curate the exhibition, "Terry Adkins can walk into a space and *see* it...**Darkwater** is very much about the process of searching for and creating works of art that speak specifically to Du Bois' legacy and to Adkins creative imagination."

Du Bois dedicated his life to working for the betterment of African Americans and strengthening ties within the Pan-African Diaspora. Born in Great Barrington, MA, he was a graduate of Fisk University, Harvard and the University of Berlin. In 1895, Du Bois was awarded a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania to conduct a research project in Philadelphia's impoverished seventh ward. The result was *The Philadelphia Negro*, one of his most celebrated works.

"I hope visitors come away informed about the under known facts of the greatest mind of the 20th Century," Adkins states. "Du Bois is grounded in this area of the city and this community. He walked among these buildings...I hope they are nourished by the experience"

Terry Adkins is Associate Professor of Sculpture at the University of Pennsylvania. Born in Washington D.C., he holds degrees from Fisk, Illinois State University, and the University of Kentucky and has received numerous awards; his work in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His latest public commission titled "Forevermore" is a memorial to the 1964 shootings on the campus of the University of Mississippi.

Now celebrating twenty years, the Arthur Ross Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania, located in the historic building designed by Frank Furness, has showcased art and artifacts from Penn's collections and elsewhere, providing visual expression to the interests and expertise of scholars and artists. The Gallery is free and open to the public Tues-Fri., 10am–5pm; Sat/Sun 12pm-5pm. closed Mondays.

Arthur Ross Gallery
Dilys Winegrad Director/Curator
220 S. 34th Street
For information call 215.898.2083 or www.upenn.edu/ARG

RELATED EVENTS

- ***POSTLUDE***, with Robert Wisdom and Tukufu Zuberi, Arthur Ross Gallery, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003, 7pm.
- ***MUFFLED DRUMS***, with James Andrew Brown, Arthur Ross Gallery, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003, 7 p.m.
- ***TITIAN***, with Sherman Fleming, Tuttleman Auditorium, Institute of Contemporary Art, Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 pm.
- ***HIGH PRIEST***, Du Bois birthday tribute with special guests reading from “Prayers for Dark People,” Arthur Ross Gallery, Sunday, Feb. 23, 3pm.