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DIASPORA STORIES: SELECTIONS FROM THE CCH POUNDER COLLECTION

By P. Andrews-Keenan

CCH Pounder's contemporary art collection is showcased in what many might think an incongruous space, **The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center**. The works in **Diaspora Stories: Selections From the CCH Pounder Collection** are culled from the award winning actress' New Orleans home and are not works from long deceased Black masters. This is a who's who of today's contemporary artists from **Kehinde Wiley** to **Robert Pruitt**; and from **Ronald Jackson** to **Mickalene Thomas** to Rockford native **Harmonia Rosales**. It confirms that Pounder, over her more than four decades of collecting, has both an eye, and some impressively high ceilings. An immense oil painting of **Winnie Mandela** by South African artist **Loyiso Mkize** greets you as you enter *Diaspora Stories*, no doubt a nod to Pounder playing the icon in 2004's *Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story*.

The exhibition also showcases the depth and breadth of Diaspora artists, something particularly important to the Guyana native. Pounder has been extensively involved with the arts as a patron, collector, gallery owner and museum founder. Her collection consists of Caribbean and African artists and artists of the African Diaspora.

The exhibition includes works by Jamaican **Ebony Patterson**, South African artist **Loyiso Mkize** and Cape Verdean-American **Tony Ramos**. Pounder also showcased a piece by the late **Geoffrey Holder** that was as off-the-minute as the "Cola Man" himself.

She thanked the DuSable for incorporating Black living history within their walls, and for taking the leap to transform their iconic entrance into a contemporary art gallery. Congratulations to the curatorial team at the DuSable for flipping the script. The venue may not be avant-garde, but the exhibit certainly is. And you can soak up a little history in the process.

Catch it during **EXPO Chicago's South Side Openings** in April. Pigment International is a media sponsor to Expo Chicago.

And for those who asked the CCH stands for **Carol Christine Hilaria**.