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For immediate release

Exhibit Opening

Of Human Feelings: Portraits by Warren Lyons

A powerful series of paintings of remarkable people

Opening Date: Saturday, February 18, 2017

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Staten Island Museum in St. George, 75 Stuyvesant Place, SI, NY 10301

Tickets: Free with Museum Admission – (Recommended \$8 Adults, \$5 Seniors/Students, \$2 children)

(Staten Island, NY – February 7, 2017) Monumental paintings of iconic African-Americans and others will be mounted at the Staten Island Museum in St. George to open during Black History Month. This powerful series of large-scale paintings by Warren Lyons depicts historic figures from American history and the arts. Opening **Saturday, February 18 at 1:00pm**, on view through June 18, 2017 at the **Staten Island Museum in St. George**.

Warren Lyons' choice of subjects, drawn from historic photographs, offer a tour of powerful individuals from the 19th and 20th Century, each of whom have had a lasting effect on the world. Performing artists such as Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Bob Marley, and Paul Robeson, literary icons Franz Kafka and James Baldwin are shown alongside political and social reformers: Abraham Lincoln, Malcom X, Sojourner Truth, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Black Elk, Fredrick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and John Brown.

Lyons approaches each portrait as a learning experience, doing deep research into his subjects' lives and characters. His accumulated understanding of the subject is geared toward making an inner, as well as outer likeness.

Visitors will be able to view the paintings, learn about each person depicted, both in the label texts and using a gallery library which will feature a collection of books and articles about or by the artist's subjects. Activities in the gallery will include drawing self-portraits, and matching quotes from each of the subjects.

About the Artist

Warren C. Lyons was born in Brooklyn, New York. Both of his parents were early role models: his father an artist and his mother a social worker and community leader.

Mr. Lyons entered Adelphi University in 1969, intent on pursuing a degree in psychology, but after taking a class in basic drawing and composition he opted to change his major to Fine Arts.

Lyons continued to paint independently while working as a youth and family counselor and eventually obtained a Master's Degree and formal Post-Master's training in Clinical Social Work.

Over the years he has produced an impressive body of work which reflects both his artistic training as well as his clinical background. His paintings suggest an integration of his dual pursuits as he integrates a psychological component into his art production and process.

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About the Staten Island Museum

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 135th year, the Staten Island Museum, New York City's only general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art, and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum serves over 219,000 adults and school children at the Museum and in the community. Now with two locations on the North Shore of Staten Island – in St. George, two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. In Building A on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions of World Art, land and seascapes spanning 3 centuries of Staten Island scenery, a life-sized mastodon emerging through the wall, and how our Island went from farm to city. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibits, visit StatenIslandMuseum.org.