

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Augusta Savage Gallery**

**Fine Arts Center**

**University of Massachusetts Amherst**

**413-545-5177**

**Augusta Savage Gallery** at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is pleased to announce an **art exhibition** entitled **Art From the Heart** featuring paintings and drawings by **Yusef Lateef**. The exhibit will run from **April 16 through 30**. There will be an **Opening Reception with the artist on April 16, 5-7pm**

*“Have you ever noticed that the last three letters in the word “heart” is art?”* Yusef Lateef’s question marks the central focus of his exhibit. In this show of new works, he continues his pursuit of Beauty and Truth, well-worn words always given new life-affirming meaning by this contemporary master. Well-known and honored for his innovative contributions to the field of music, he boldly explores the world of visual art.

Dr. Lateef, the Grammy Award-winning composer, performer, recording artist, author, educator and philosopher has been a major force on the international musical scene for more than six decades. He is universally acknowledged as one of the great living masters and innovators in the African American tradition of what he calls “autophysiopsychic music,” an approach directed from the spiritual, physical and emotional self. So, with such a full array of commitments, when did he begin painting? He says, *“When Cannonball [Adderley] got married, I gave a painting to him and his wife Olga, called Black & Blue. Over the past 2 years, I’ve done more painting than ever, since retiring from the university.”*

In this rare exhibit, Yusef Lateef once again shows himself to be a fully engaged student of life, with an endless supply of curiosity, imagination, and joy. Trees are the subject of his new works. In his words: *“It has been said: If you must paint, then, paint trees. Therefore, I conclude that the many trees created by Providence serve as a prototype for my paintings. Conjointly it is my humble desire that my paintings become the visual embodiment of my intuitive feelings and conceptions where-by Providence strengthens and excites the beauty which is already in your*

*heart.” But, Lateef’s trees are far from conventional, giving us yet another peek into this authentic life. “I’ve seen them in different countries and it’s so amazing how different each tree is in shape and texture.” Then, reflecting on the enormity of this statement, he adds: “The ability to see is such a fantastic gift. If I become part of that equation it gives me happiness.”*

*This event is free and open to the general public.  
For information: 413-545-5177*