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**ANNOUNCING artHARLEM's HOAST2009 : WHERE 100 POINTS OF ART WILL SHINE IN THE
NEW YORK ART WORLD**

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Harlem Artists, Galleries & Exhibition Spaces Open their Doors to the Public, The 5th Annual Two-Day Harlem Open Artists Studio Tour/HOAST2009 Kicks Off October 10 + 11

NEW YORK CITY - Home to one of America's great artistic renaissance periods, Harlem is once again becoming a brightly shining beacon of art in New York City. A growing presence of artist studios and galleries in the neighborhood is celebrated annually during the Harlem Open Artist Studio Tour - a self-guided walking tour of visual artist studios, galleries, and exhibition spaces. This two day event will take place on Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11. The event is free to the public.

HOAST is a project of artHARLEM, a community arts organization established in 2004. artHARLEM's mission is to foster artistic expression and promote the visual artists who live and work in Harlem by strengthening the arts community and increasing awareness of it in the contemporary art world.

'HOAST2009 promises to be our most comprehensive event to date, with over 100 artists, galleries and exhibition spaces participating,' said Reuben Sinha, director and co-founder of artHARLEM. 'With HOAST2009, we will be celebrating our fifth year of promoting the contemporary arts in Harlem. We are thrilled to have established an annual tradition of open studios in the neighborhood. Harlem is all about art.'

'Harlem's creative energy is everywhere. Artists studios can just as likely be found in living spaces as in basements and shuttered commercial storefronts. Also, the presence of galleries, exhibition spaces and public art installations has greatly increased in the neighborhood. You no longer have to travel downtown to attend a gallery opening or to see a new art installation,' added executive director and co-founder, Gina Fuentes-Walker. 'You can walk a few blocks along Lenox Avenue or take the 1 train to 144th Street to see new artwork and run into other artists and curators in the process.'

Free tour maps will be available at artHARLEM's Information Center at Casa Frela Gallery (47 west 119th St., btwn Lenox and 5th aves.). Visitors will be able to chart their course, ask questions and meet with artists. Also, a group exhibition of participating artists titled SERPENTINA will be on view at the gallery, September 21 - October 21. The exhibition will offer visitors a preview of the artwork that will be on view during HOAST2009. For more information, contact us at info@artharlem.org or visit www.artharlem.org for news and updates.