



- Burbank
- North Hollywood
- Sherman Oaks
- Studio City
- Valley Village
- Van Nuys



Haitian artist Metellus Bekens' "Carnival" will be highlighted. The artist once worked as a laborer in the sugarcane fields of the Dominican Republic.

Exhibit Honors Black Artists

U.S. and Haitian artists featured

Special to the Valley News

In honor of Black History Month, the NoHo Gallery LA will present "The Black Arts," highlighting the works of Dr. Allen Bearden, an artist and 30-year arts educator. The gallery will also feature the United States debut of Metellus Bekens, an exiled Haitian artist who has kept himself and his family alive through his art.

The exhibits, "A Doctor of Art," and "An Exiled Artist," run from Jan. 25 through Feb. 26. There will be an artist reception party from 6 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7, with Latin jazz percussionist and artist Pete Escovedo serving as emcee and featuring Caribbean dance and jazz/blues guitarist Scott Detweiler performing his tribute, "The Angels of New Orleans."

NoHo Gallery LA curator Daniel C. DeBevoise said Bearden was chosen as a featured artist because not only is he a talented artist himself, he is an arts educator who has nurtured the careers of many young aspiring



Dr. Allen Bearden's untitled painting will be featured along with some of his other works at the NoHo Gallery LA in North Hollywood.

artists.

Bekens is a native of Jacmel, Haiti, and his story is both sad and inspiring. Due to economic hardship, Bekens left Haiti in 1996 to work in the sugarcane fields of the Dominican Republic, where, following a workplace accident, he survived by

selling paintings to tourists. His is still the main source of income for his family in Haiti.

The NoHo Gallery LA is located at 5108 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood. For information, call (818) 761-7784 or log onto www.nohogalleryla.com.