

## AU art school dean's work featured in NYC exhibition on slavery

6/07/06

Works by Joseph S. Lewis III, dean of the School of Art & Design at Alfred University, will be featured in the New-York Historical Society's upcoming exhibition, *Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery*, on view from June 16, 2006 through Jan. 7, 2007. The exhibition complements recent historical exhibits mounted by the New-York Historical Society - New York City's first museum - emphasizing how history affects our current-day concerns and perceptions. Lewis is one of 32 artists presenting 41 works which reflect on how America's history of racially based slavery has shaped our society. *Legacies* shows how important history is to our lives today and provokes consideration as to why a topic relating to the past continues to occupy a central place in the works of living artists. The exhibit reminds viewers that slavery still affects millions of people of all races around the world today. Lewis created two new pieces for the exhibit - "Mandela," and "Anne Frank Forever: The Endless Column," in which he poses questions about universal human experiences and communications media that both connect and divide people. Lewis is a visual and performing artist. He has had numerous solo exhibitions of his work both nationally and internationally for more than two decades, and has participated in several residency programs including Anderson Ranch, Colorado; Cite des Artes, Paris; and the Darkroom Projects in Milan, Italy. He is the recipient of several awards, commissions, and fellowships, including an Award of Excellence from Communication Arts, several grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. Lewis holds a master of fine arts degree from Maryland Institute, College of the Arts, where he was a Ford Fellow and a Philip Morris Fellow. He received his B.A. in art from Hamilton College. Since 1804, the New-York Historical Society has served as a collective memory of New York, accumulating vast collections in American painting, sculpture, books, manuscripts, decorative arts, architectural drawings, photographs, prints, and ephemera. The mission of the newly revitalized Historical Society is to use these collections to help New Yorkers understand the complex and diverse past behind the world we know today. Lewis appeared in a photo with curator Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims in the June 23-24, 2006 edition of *The New York Sun*, which covered the opening reception of the exhibit.