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**DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL INTRODUCES “PEOPLE YOU MAY KNOW”, AN EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY PORTRAITS WITH A COMMUNITY-MINDED VISION, OPENING OCTOBER 8**

Durham, NC – The Durham Arts Council (DAC) presents *People You May Know*, an exhibition of non-traditional, contemporary portraits that aims to celebrate the diversity and richness of our regional community. The exhibit will be on display in the DAC’s Allenton and Semans Galleries from **OCTOBER 8, 2010-JANUARY 9, 2011** and features work by nine area artists working in a variety of two-dimensional media. The exhibition also highlights two artistic projects by Durham community activists: the *Community Portrait of Durham* and the *New Neighbors Project*. The public is invited to the artists' reception on **Third Friday, October 15, from 5-7 PM**, which will include the official unveiling of the *Community Portrait of Durham* as well as a surprise portraiture-related art happening.

The subjects of the portraits are all recognizable individual members of our community portrayed in each artist’s distinctive style. The exhibition as a whole reveals striking, interesting and often overlooked area citizens who may live or work right next door or are historically significant members of our community. In a world that is increasingly digital and isolating, an exhibition of portraits so intimate and engaging is an effort to forge connections in the real world. This exhibit aims to reveal the beauty in diversity and to inspire reflection on the meaning of creativity and community.

The exhibiting artists are all local to the Triangle area of North Carolina and have varied approaches to portraiture in style, medium or in their choices of unique individual subjects. The exhibiting artists include: Daniel Allegrucci, Dave Alsobrooks, Maria Brubeck, Jacob Cooley, Alia El-Bermani, Titus Heagins, Dipika Kohli, Beverly McIver and Marianita Stevans. Many of these artists are included in significant regional and national collections ranging from the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Nasher Museum of Art to the collections of the Smithsonian and Ford Motor Company.

The exhibition is coordinated by DAC curator and staff member, Barclay McConnell, and it is the first exhibition curated in-house by the Durham Arts Council in its 56 years of programming and support of the arts.

The artists' reception on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM is part of downtown Durham's Third Friday gallery tour and will feature food, music and an opportunity for the public to view the exhibit and meet the artists. There will be a portraiture-related art happening in the DAC's pavilion lobby. The event is free and open to the public and will be held at the DAC's historic downtown building at 120 Morris Street, Durham, NC, 27701. For more details phone (919)560-ARTS or visit our website at [www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org). For more information about the *People You May Know* exhibit, contact Barclay McConnell at [bmccconnell@durhamarts.org](mailto:bmccconnell@durhamarts.org).

### **About the Durham Arts Council**

The Durham Arts Council is a private nonprofit dedicated to supporting the arts in Durham and the entire Triangle Region in North Carolina and has served the community since 1954. Each year DAC serves over 300,000 visitors and program participants, over 600 artists, and more than 60 arts organizations through classes, artist residencies, exhibits, festivals, grants programs, technical support, arts advocacy and information services. By supporting the Durham Arts Council, you help DAC fulfill its mission of promoting excellence in and access to the creation, experience and active support of the arts for all the people of our community. For more information call 919.560.ARTS or visit our website at [www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org).