UMBC Student-Curated Exhibition Featured in Amalie Rothschild Gallery at Creative Alliance

**Simple Stories: The Photography of Robert Houston**
Dec. 6-14, 2013

**Public Programs**

Public Reception: Sat. Dec. 7, 5:30-7:30 pm ~ 6pm, Artist's Comments  
Kerplunk! ~ Sat. Dec. 7, 12-3 pm ~ Free Family Drop-In Program  
*An Evening with the Storyteller: Robert Houston – Marquee Lounge ~ Thurs. Dec. 12, 8:30-9 pm*

A curatorial project of Sandra Abbott’s UMBC Museum Studies class, *Simple Stories* explores the work of photographer, Robert Houston. Houston's photographic career documents half a century of portraits and everyday life, including his work for LIFE magazine and images of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The exhibit runs Dec. 6 – 14, 2013, with a reception on Sat. Dec. 7, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at which the artist will deliver comments at 6 pm.

**About the Exhibition**

Over the past few decades Baltimore has struggled with fragmentation. Rather than seen as a unified city, Baltimore is instead viewed as a grouping of disparate neighborhoods. However, art has the power to transcend limiting imagined identities. The photographs of Robert Houston celebrate the underlying essence of humanity embodied by each and every one of us.

**Educational Programming**

The exhibition installation will feature a participatory educational space, in which visitors are encouraged to share their own stories or image making. Other programs planned in conjunction with the exhibition include an intimate event, *An Evening with the Storyteller*, 8:30-9 pm on December 12th in the Creative Alliance’s Marquee Lounge. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions at this casual, student-moderated Q&A with the artist. On Saturday, December 7th, 12 noon to 3 pm, the Creative Alliance’s weekly, free drop-in program, [Kerplunk!](http://www.creativealliance.org/events/2013/starting-image-robert-houston) will host the students as facilitators with exhibition-specific programming for families.

For this exhibition only, Mr. Houston has allowed the students full freedom to interpret and use his works, allowing them to organize an exhibition entirely of their own vision. *Simple Stories* (formerly conceived as *Starting with an Image*) is curated by UMBC’s Art 427 Museum Practice students, including Shae Adams, Victoria Baron, Ryan Campbell, Samantha Eller, Kathleen Foster, Jessica Gordon, Chiu Yee Hui, Robin Martin, Domenica Mejia-Clavijo, Kyberly Peters, Jazmin Smith, and Suwachani Uyangodage. For additional information and updates see the project webpage at [http://www.creativealliance.org/events/2013/starting-image-robert-houston](http://www.creativealliance.org/events/2013/starting-image-robert-houston)
The exhibition and programs are supported in part by the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and the Department of Visual Arts.

The Creative Alliance is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am – 7 pm. All events associated with this project are free and open to the public.

**Robert Houston**
Baltimore-born Robert Houston is a self-taught photographer. He was educated at Paul Lawrence Dunbar Public School and Maryland State College (now UMES) in Princess Anne, MD. Photographer, Gordon Parks was his mentor, and under his tutelage Robert became a professional photographer in the mid-1960s. In 1968 *Life Magazine* assigned Houston to photo-document the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C.

Robert Houston is the author/photographer of *Legacy To An Unborn Son*, published 1970 by Beacon Press. Houston's photographs have continually been exhibited throughout the U.S. and in several countries. In 2011 Houston won first prize in the international photography exhibit, *Colors of Life*. He is currently editing personal photographs for upcoming exhibitions and publications, including projects with Johns Hopkins.

**Amalie Rothschild Gallery**
Named for one of Baltimore's great sculptors and arts patrons, our second floor gallery presents an array of exhibitions and installations that rotate frequently to allow access to as many artists as possible. Use of the gallery as a project space, incubator and facilitator of new work is encouraged. In general, exhibitions in the ARG are self-produced; artists are responsible for the bulk of installation and promotion.

**The Creative Alliance at the Patterson**
The Creative Alliance presents more than 20 exhibitions per year, by artists at different points in their careers and working in a range of styles and media. We look for new ways to present what they do, new artists for them to collaborate with, and innovative ways to expand the meaning of their work.

For more information, please visit [creativealliance.org](http://creativealliance.org).