

LIBERTY ARTS NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Castings For A Cause”

**An Exhibit of African Bronzes to Support the Education of Ghanaian Girls
at Liberty Arts, November 11 – December 22, 2006**

Durham, NC - Liberty Arts is proud to present *Castings For A Cause*, an Exhibit to Support the Education of Ghanaian Girls. The “Quality Individuals,” a group of 12 artists in Ghana and US sculptor Virginia Tyler, cast small bronze sculptures that sell at prices all art lovers can afford. The funds they raise go to scholarships for young girls in the bronze casters’ village who would not be able to go to school otherwise. The bronzes are showing at the Liberty Arts Office at 538 Foster Street from November 11th – December 22nd, 2006. Proceeds support scholarships for Ghanaian girls and Liberty Arts.

The “Quality Individuals” project began when sculptor Virginia Tyler met traditional bronze casters in the village of Krofofrom (pronounced “crow-from”) in Ghana. As a Fulbright scholar, Ms. Tyler began working with foundry owners Joseph Agyemang and Paul Amponsah along with other village sculptors in 1998. She and the village artists cast tiny versions of modern conveniences like small computers, trucks, and televisions that have made their way into traditional African life. Ms. Tyler has used Art-O-Mats (retired cigarette vending machines) to sell the sculptures at the Whitney Museum of Art and the New Museum of Contemporary Art (both in NYC), and now partners with Liberty Arts to make them available locally.

Every \$500 raised sends 1 girl to school for a year. Unlike the U.S., schools in Ghana are not tax-supported so families have to pay high tuition fees to send their children to elementary school. Typically, poor families send their boys to school since they are seen as future “bread-winners”, and girls are kept home where they remain illiterate. Ms. Tyler is committed to sending at least 3 girls through 9th grade.

In support of this cause, Liberty Arts will have 300-400 sculptures available for display and sale. Sculptures range from \$30 - \$150. Liberty Arts will sell these sculptures during Durham Art Walk Weekend, Saturday, November 11th and Sunday, November 12th and also during the Durham Culture Crawl on Friday, November 17th. The exhibit will remain through December 22nd. Please contact Jennifer Collins, Executive Director of Liberty Arts to schedule a special showing at 919-682-2673 or libertyarts@verizon.net. For info on the ongoing project in Ghana, contact vtyler@mindspring.com.

Liberty Arts, Inc. is a nonprofit sculpture studio and bronze casting facility located in downtown Durham’s Central Park District serving North Carolina and the Southeast region. Liberty Arts’ mission is to *Transform the Triangle* by encouraging and supporting the creation, promotion and placement of sculpture in public and private spaces. Liberty Arts offers classes for the community, affordable short-term studio space for artists, and is available for commissioned works.
Liberty Arts - For the Triangle. For Art. For Everyone.