

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Eileen Rhodes, Gallery Owner
eyerhodes@gmail.com
312.907.9323
www.blancchicago.com

CHICAGO NATIVE FINDS HOME AGAIN IN NEW ART EXHIBIT

BLANC Gallery is pleased to present "*Homecoming*," an exhibition featuring New York artist, and Chicago native, Dr. Raymond A. Dalton, on display August 3 – September 21, 2012. An opening reception will be held Friday, August 3 from 6pm to 9pm at Blanc Gallery, 4445 S. King Drive, Chicago, IL 60653. 773.952.4394. This event is free and open to the public.

For this series, Ray Dalton has created nearly 20 original photomontages. As source material he used several hundred of his own photographs from nearly 5 decades of travel and documentation. Ray brings to life old and new elements of Chicago through many layers of images from around the globe. As not only an artist but also an art scholar, Ray is quick to note the subtle but important difference of photomontage and collage; the former being a process of making a single image from a compilation of other photographs and the former as an assemblage of many materials including photography. Artists like Romare Bearden and Hannah Hoch are perhaps most well known for their use of montage as a primary medium.

Ray's "*Homecoming*" series brings Bronzeville's cultural legacy to vibrant new life through the eyes of an artist who has personally witnessed its many transformations. The images depict timeless scenes of city activity that are a part of our collective memories—jumping rope on hot summer days, spirited card games, sultry dances between lovers. As a little boy growing up on the south side of Chicago, Raymond Dalton, 70, spent many a day at the Metropolitan Funeral Home (now the site of Blanc Gallery) celebrating the *homegoing* of his relatives. After more than 50 years, he is now returning to this same space, a container for so many personal memories, for a first solo exhibition of artworks in Chicago. Dalton states, "*Good 'home' company keeps coming back again into each other's lives no matter how little or great the time lapsed between. Homecoming is a state of nourishment that sustains us so that we flourish.*"

Ray Dalton was born and raised on the south side of Chicago and graduated from DuSable High School. He earned his bachelors and masters degrees from Illinois State University and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. His ground breaking research on effective recruitment and retention of African American architecture students at the collegiate level led to over 30 years of academic service at both the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Cornell University. He was responsible for record numbers of minority students enrolling and graduating from these top institutions before his retirement in 2009. Ray has exhibited work in New York and continues to travel extensively throughout the world.

"*Homecoming*," is on display August 3 – September 21, 2012. Join the artists for a reception on Friday, August 3 from 6pm to 9pm at Blanc Gallery, 4445 S. King Drive, Chicago, IL 60653. 312.907.9323. Light refreshments will be served. An artist talk and closing reception will be held during the run of the exhibit. For the most up to date information, visit: www.blancchicago.com or call 773.952.4394. This event is free and open to the public. Street parking available free of charge.

* * *

About BLANC Gallery

Blanc Gallery is committed to rekindling the Culture of Conversation that was a vital part of the history of the neighborhood to which it belongs. Artists, intellectuals, and entrepreneurs engaged in a robust dialogue on matters of importance to the community. Recent years have seen a powerful resurgence of this creative energy, with art galleries, restaurants, schools, theaters and event facilities providing vital new public forums. Blanc's bold mission is to engage African Americans and all Chicagoans through the arts and to ignite dialogue on issues of spiritual, political and social significance. As a community-based art gallery, Blanc collaborates with local non-profits and institutions to support their missions and integrate them into a dialogue with the work. blancchicago.com

BLANC Gallery hours are by appointment only. Visitors are encouraged to call or email to schedule a time to visit. The gallery is located at 4445 S. King Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60653. Visit the website blancchicago.com or call 773.952.4394 for more information.