



Friday, 23 September 2011

-PRESS RELEASE-

Shhh.....Can you keep a Birthday Surprise? – Archbishop

Desmond Tutu is going to be 80 this October and we need your help. Come and sign the Tutu Foundation UK's *Ubuntu Birthday Card* for a great man, who with his dear wife Mrs. Leah Tutu is our Patron.

The Tutu Foundation UK builds peace in fractured communities across England using a model inspired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu's peace and reconciliation work all over the world. The Tutu Foundation UK helps people in communities at risk of conflict, come together to develop a common point of view of what is wrong and how to make it better.

The work of the Tutu Foundation is built on the principle of 'Ubuntu', a traditional Southern African philosophy which puts emphasis on our common humanity; our connectedness and interdependence as fellow human beings.

We are particularly honoured that the artist Kwabena Gyedu has made available one of his works, which forms the centrepiece of our *Ubuntu Birthday Card*. We now want you to join us in writing your personal messages, on a rainbow of ribbons, which will complete our *Ubuntu Birthday Card*.

No Living British Artist better captures both the spirit of Ubuntu and *Conversations for Change*; the Tutu Foundation UK's flagship programme, than Kwabena Gyedu. Talking about his work, the artist says:

"The essence of my work is an instinctive reflection on non-objective representation, using figurative imagery and geometric substructures to evoke a dynamic creative vision. I seek to merge vivid imagery, rhythm, form and sometimes, complex dialogue, to present a personal view of contemporary society. I often draw out these complex thoughts from simple expressions and shapes that fuse figurative imagery and discourse on a rather impulsive, materialistic world of today. I aim to engender an objective conversation with the onlooker through imagery that challenges and pleases the aesthetic sensibility simultaneously."

Kwabena Gyedu.

Our *Ubuntu Birthday Card*, together with a DVD montage highlighting the work of the Tutu Foundation, will tour to local communities between 23rd September to the 7th October 2011. The DVD provides highlights of our flagship programme, Conversations for Change, which is successfully helping to transform communities across England and is based on the global work of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Our Ubuntu Birthday Card will be taken to South Africa, to be personally presented with all our blessings, to Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Locations – 25 September to 7 October 2011

- Guildford Cathedral, on Sunday 25 September after the 9.45am Cathedral Eucharist.
- Liverpool [30/09/2011] the Black-E Arts Centre - The Black-E is located just downhill of the Anglican Cathedral, on Great George Street, Liverpool L1 5EW. Tea and Tutu –afternoon tea and games with the Artist Kwabena Gyedu.
- Methodist Central Hall by invitation on Monday, the 3rd October 2011.
- Hull University – Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation on the 7th October 2011, to coincide with launch of the TFUK Facebook Ubuntu Birthday Pages – share your greetings.
- Golders Green & Brent tbc

If you would like to join us at a location near you, please contact the Tutu Foundation UK for times and dates. Alternatively visit our 'Birthday Page' on our Tutu Foundation Facebook site.

To read more about the Tutu Foundation UK: www.tutufoundationuk.org

Contact: info@tutufoundationuk.org

The Tutu Foundation UK – Notes:

- Launched in 2007 with a unique mission to continue the inspiring work of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu in the context of British communities.
- The Tutu Foundation UK works with young people and others in areas of conflict by supporting grass roots community groups.
- The Foundation provides innovative training and accompaniment to enable young people to build bridges across the divides of race, religion or even postcodes.
- Examples of work include programmes in Liverpool run jointly with the Community Foundation for Merseyside and Merseyside Police, and in Bradford run jointly with YMCA and Prince's Trust.
- The Southern African concept of *Ubuntu* – the essence of what it means to be truly human – informs the Foundation's collaborative work with individuals and organisations at grass roots level.
- At the heart of *Ubuntu* is the belief that no matter what our cultural, ethnic or religious background, there is far more that unites us as human beings than separates us. It is this approach that is fundamental to the pioneering work of the Foundation in the UK.

