

## *Tipi Narratives*

*Paintings by Toni Thomas*

*An Exhibition Celebrating Black History Month*



*Indigo Hands III*  
*Acrylic on recycled canvas*

**January 30 - March 12, 2012**  
**Broadway & LRC Galleries**

**Broadway at Memorial Drive - Paterson, NJ**

**Mon- Fri 9:00 am - 9:00 pm**

**Saturdays 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

*\*Accessibility Information Below*

**Artist's Reception**  
**February 9**

**4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Exhibit and Reception Open to the Public**

**ADMISSION FREE**

### **About the Exhibition and Artist**

Inspired by a pattern designed by the Blackfoot people, Toni Thomas's tipi paintings began as a way for her to connect cultures and traditions of indigenous people from North America and Africa. *Tipi Narratives* is a series of shaped paintings created on stretched and stitched recycled canvas. Each piece tells a story based on the artist's personal, cultural and universal concerns.

*Indigo Hands* addresses the use of slave labor to dye fabric to make army uniforms during the Civil War. Another painting, *Exquisite Butterfly*, shows an image of a woman of color as a trapped butterfly unable to spread her wings because of her position in the home and in society.

**Toni Thomas** received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, and a Master of Fine Arts from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. She exhibits her work widely with recent exhibitions at the College of St. Elizabeth in New Jersey, the Asian American Art Center in New York City and in Havana, Cuba. She was awarded grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, and was recently an artist-in-residence at the English School in Helsinki, Finland.

Thomas is currently an art instructor at Arts High School in Newark, NJ. She has created several art programs for youth and adults in New York and New Jersey. She is the founder and director of Arts ETC, a nonprofit art organization dedicated to building community among artists and bringing art programs to local communities. In 2007 Thomas started Catfish Friday Women's Art Collective and in 2010 opened the Yema Gallery in the Valley Arts district of Orange, NJ.

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***For additional information about this show or other exhibitions at PCCC,  
please contact Jane Haw, Gallery Curator, at (973) 684-5448  
or visit our website at [www.pccc.edu/art/gallery](http://www.pccc.edu/art/gallery).***

**\*Accessibility Information**

PCCC strives to maintain a barrier-free facility including complete access for patrons using wheelchairs. Large print materials, FM listening systems, select audio publications and Braille transcriptions are available on request.

Please contact (973) 684-6507 for availability.

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***The PCCC Art Galleries*** are located at Passaic County Community College in the downtown historic district of Paterson and offer both changing exhibitions as well as exhibits of the permanent collection and contemporary art collection featuring 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings, prints, sculpture, and decorative arts.

***The Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College*** has been named a Distinguished Arts Organization and is funded, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

