

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 2017

**CONTACT:**

stellajonesgallery@gmail.com | 504-568-9050

**elizabeth CATLETT** (1915-2012)  
**and joseph LOFTON** (b1924)

***black contemporaries in mexico***

Opening: Saturday, February 4, 5pm – 7pm  
(LOFTON in attendance)

On Exhibition: February 4 through March, 2017

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**Stella Jones Gallery**, specializing in African American fine art, is proud to be counted among the most respected fine art galleries in the country. Having just celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the same St. Charles Avenue location, we are honored to begin 2017 by showcasing **original drawings** by **ELIZABETH CATLETT** along with her American contemporary, painter, **JOSEPH LOFTON**.

With this exhibition, we explore the impact of identity in shaping an artist's life and work while living outside of America. **CATLETT** lived, worked and socialized in the small community of Cuernavaca, Mexico during the anti-Communist political period in the U.S. Unlike Catlett, **LOFTON** moved to Mexico in the early 1990's. Their very different perspectives are both rooted in the relevance of African and African American art and the black experience, and both artists bring an intercultural identity to their work.

Throughout her life, **CATLETT** embraced and remained committed to black and brown peoples, especially women, through her political activities and particularly through her art. **LOFTON**, whose **paintings span over four decades** and focus on a wide range of themes, most notably social commentary, found harmony and a spiritual bond in African and Mexican designs and a meaningful connection to Indian art. These artists' works are ethnically grounded and provide insight within the conversation of race.

**About Stella Jones Gallery:**

For two decades **Stella Jones Gallery** has played a pivotal role in highlighting the historical relevance of Black Art. The gallery's owner, **Dr. Stella Jones**, is committed to educating collectors, museums and the community on the political, social and economic impact that African American Artists and their work have had.

**Stella Jones Gallery - 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70170.**

For more information, please contact 504-568-9050/stellajonesgallery@gmail.com  
or visit [www.stellajonesgallery.com](http://www.stellajonesgallery.com)