



## **NEW AFRICAN ART GALLERY “UJAMAA ART GALLERY” AIDS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN TANZANIA**

**ALBANY** – In honor of Black History Month, the African Reflections Foundation, “Ujamaa Art Gallery”, located at 165 South Pearl Street, will open its doors to the public on February 26, 2010. The gallery will provide a unique, aesthetic space for African art and photography. African Reflections Foundation (ARF) launches the opening of its gallery featuring an exhibition of wildlife photographs by artists from Tanzania and the Seychelles.

The gallery will promote young artists, photographers and Makonde carvers from East Africa. Makonde carving is the most respected sculpture created in the region and is produced by the Makonde people of southern Tanzania. Their material of choice is African Blackwood, or Mpingo, and is both traditional and contemporary, reflecting a rich tribal past as well as a modern response to urbanization.

The money raised will be shared with the African artists to help in their efforts to buy equipment that will enhance their photography and crafting skills. Twenty-five percent of funds raised will go toward ongoing ARF projects in Tanzania. These projects include the building of clinics and schools, the digging of wells, and agricultural and economic initiatives aimed at empowering women and assisting them to care for their families.

The African Reflections Foundation (ARF) is a 501-c3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise awareness and funds to help improve the quality of life for people in rural Africa, specifically in Tanzania. ARF has been in the Capital Region for over five years and has led many global development initiatives with state and local support.

We invite community members and friends to enjoy a captivating the art and photography while supporting ARF’s humanitarian efforts to impact the lives of the people of Tanzania. Donations may also be made online at [www.africanreflectionsfoundation.org](http://www.africanreflectionsfoundation.org).

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