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Nyumba Ata Choma (2008)

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**Open Doors at the MAI: Solo Exhibition *Haraka Haraka* by Brendan Fernandes
As part of the Nuit blanche à Montréal of the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival
Saturday, February 27, 2010**

Montréal, February 1, 2010 – Once again, the MAI is thrilled to be participating in the Nuit blanche à Montréal organised by the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival. Our gallery doors will be open from 8 pm right up until 2 am. Gallery-goers and other night owls will have the chance to discover the exhibition *Haraka Haraka* by international artist Brendan Fernandes. Hot beverages will be served. Free admission. All are welcome.

Kenyan-born of Indian descent, and living in North America since the 1990s, artist Brendan Fernandes explores his hybrid identity—one of inner struggle between his memories of Kenya as a ‘native’ of that country, and his current perspective as a westerner. Signifying “hurry, hurry” in Swahili, the title *Haraka Haraka* lends a tone of urgency to these works which, combining installation, video, and performance, evoke various facets of personal identity, be they linguistic (*Foe*), political (*Nyumba Ata Choma*), and cultural (*Aya Mama*).

About Brendan Fernandes

Born in Kenya of Indian heritage, Brendan Fernandes is currently based between Toronto and New York. He completed the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art (2007), and earned his MFA (2005) from The University of Western Ontario and his BFA (2002) from York University. He has participated in numerous grants including Canada Councils for the Arts’ International Residency in Trinidad and Tobago (2006) and at the Gyeonggi Creation Center at the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea (2010). He has exhibited internationally, including at The Third Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China (2008) and The Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY (2007). He is a current recipient of a New Commissions Project through Art in General, NY (2010). His work is represented by Diaz Contemporary, Toronto.

www.diazcontemporary.ca

www.brendanfernandes.ca

About the MAI

A pluridisciplinary presenter, the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) is the only organization in the Montreal and Canadian contemporary art milieu specifically mandated to promote intercultural artistic practices. Possessing a theatre, a gallery, and rehearsal spaces, the MAI’s mission is to support the creation, presentation, and promotion of contemporary intercultural art practices for diverse audiences.

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For more information:

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www.montrealhighlights.com

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