



## ***Meet the Artist***

**Saturday, June 28, 2008**

We are pleased to present Paula Whaley, one of the *giants* in the cadre of "Black Doll Artists". Her dolls are not for child's play, but for doll and art collectors and for those who appreciate the beauty, spirituality or the message conveyed by her dolls.

Paula grew up in Harlem. She was the youngest of nine children. She graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and continued her studies at *Cadres Couture* in Paris, France. She achieved a successful career as a costume, clothing, hat and jewelry designer. Her evolution into doll making began after the heartbreaking loss of her eldest brother, James Baldwin, noted author and playwright (1924-1987). Their father passed before Paula was born so *Jimmy*, as she called him, was like a father and was her mentor. She was emotionally devastated after his death. This was a period when she was totally devoid of feelings and not even her mother could help her. A sculptor by the name of Sam Smiley saw what she was going through and told her to "put your hands into clay". Paula took his advice and the healing process began. She released her pain and replaced it with love, reflection and celebration of life through her creations.



Each piece is one of a kind. Paula incorporates fabrics, wood, paper, beads, natural fibers, metals, yarns, shells and all sorts of other interesting finds into her creations. In addition to molding clay, she is dyeing amazing colors, painting tribal designs, sewing, beading, weaving, using textiles from old worn garments and so on. Sometimes a face may remind you of someone you know, or a hair style may be one you want for yourself.



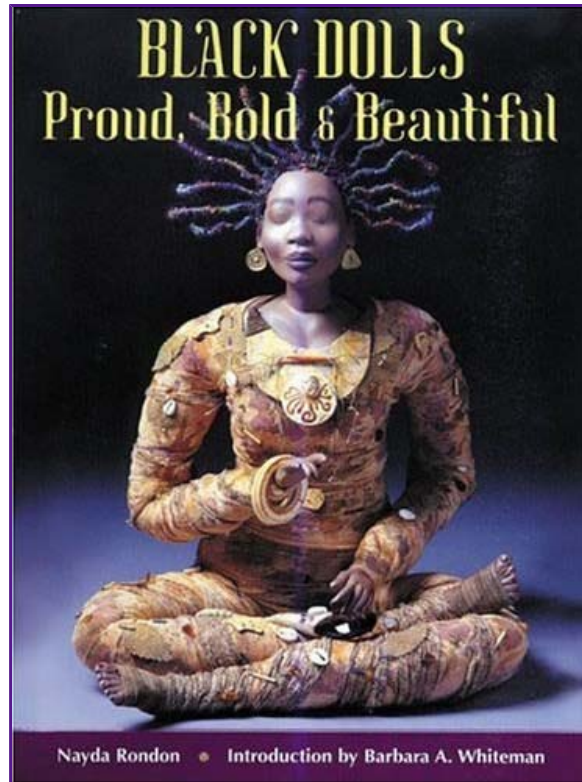
Paula lives and works in Baltimore on North Charles Street. Her professional name is Oneeki (pronounced Oh-nee-Kai) which is a feminine Yoruba name that means "treat her tenderly for me". The windows of her studio are always graced by several tall dolls in exquisite flowing attire amongst greenery. Their eyes are closed because of their reflections on what has been and what is to come.

During her one-day show at MAJA, her selection will include wearable art pins, plant sticks, wall hangings, standing and sitting sculptures. Prices vary starting from \$25 up to \$800.

Mark your calendars, Saturday, June 28th from 1pm to 7 pm.

For more information about Paula and other Black Doll artists, read [\*Black Dolls Proud, Bold and Beautiful\*](#) by Nayda Rondon.





## ***Upcoming Events***

We will begin to have workshops and get-togethers for natural hair and skin care, head wrapping, decorating with African and African style fabrics, making your own handbags, making your own jewelry, and belly dancing. More information and dates will be announced.

Meet-the-Artist continues with Jewelry in August.

## ***Store Hours***

Wednesdays through Sundays 11AM to 7PM