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SOLOMON WONDIMU, "Skin: America in Black & White": Jan 8 – Feb. 4, 2010.

Opening reception:
Friday, Jan. 8th, 7-9 p.m.

The Red Caboose Gallery is pleased to present
SOLOMON WONDIMU, "Skin: America in Black & White"
The exhibition opens Friday January 8th with a reception on Friday January 8th from
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In conjunction with The Sundry's open mic Verbal Assault at 8pm

Washington painter Solomon Wondimu is presenting his work at the Red Caboose for the first time. Solomon has always been puzzled by the signifying system, which references the human race. And he questions, why are people identified or classified as “Black” or “White” when skin color is neither of these two colors; why does language describe an opposition that does not exist in nature? Does this arbitrary system have the basis of provable connection to a subject in front of us or to our own bodies? Can the colors of people be measured or quantified?

In search of truth, Solomon has taken forearm pictures of hundreds of participants, and then used Adobe Photoshop to cut out a square-inch section from each forearm. The idea was to accurately measure and records the different colors of people. Interestingly, he has found an average of fifteen different colors within each square-inch sample. This discovery has led him to believe that people are not, in fact, any one color, that color is a fiction in this sense. From each square-inch sample, Solomon decided to take eight skin-color swatches, to represent the multi-colored ness of each participant. He created digital artwork, paintings and sculptures based on thousands of skin colors that he has collected over the years.

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