



Artists: Baroness Carrie Von Reichardt with Emory Douglas. Left: The Black Sheep Curiosity Emporium

Panthers Get Fists Cast to Raise Funds for Imprisoned

The plight of Black Panther Party members still imprisoned in the United States prompted an extraordinary artistic endeavour involving Black and White Panther Party members in London on November 8.

World-renowned artist Emory Douglas, who served as Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party, and Billy X Jennings, who runs a website to maintain the legacy of the Party, joined musician and White Panther Party founder John Sinclair for the first time to have their arms and fists cast by celebrated British artists Nick Reynolds and John Schoonraad.

The men, brought together by the Angola 3 London and Free Zulu committee, participated in the special event to help raise funds in particular for Kenny 'Zulu' Whitmore. Zulu, who has been held in solitary confinement for the past 31 years at Angola prison, Louisiana, was convicted of armed robbery and murder, but has always maintained his innocence.

Limited-edition ceramic versions of the casts will be available for sale in the coming months at the Black Sheep Curiosity Emporium, an art shop and gallery in Chiswick run by The Treatment Rooms collective. Meanwhile, a bronze version of each will make their way to a house being built in New Orleans for Herman Wallace, one of the Angola 3, who has spent almost 36 years in solitary at the prison.

'I am honoured to have my fist cast for such a worthy cause,' Emory Douglas said, in the UK for the premiere of his exhibition *Black Panther: The Art of Revolution* at Urbis, Manchester.

The sculptures are the latest in a series by Reynolds and Schoonraad; in June of this year, the pair also cast the head, upper torso and raised fist of activist and Black Panther Robert King, the only released member of the Angola 3.

'It has been a fantastic opportunity to have these Panthers come together, not only as a historic moment in itself, but also to help us highlight and raise funds for the case of Zulu and others, who are unfairly imprisoned and need our support in bringing forward their appeals,' Carrie Reichardt, spokesperson for Angola 3 London, said.

'These sculptures by Nick and John are incredibly valuable, and we are grateful to them and our Panther friends for making this momentous event happen.'

Contact thebaroness@angola3london.org for more information.