

DAILY NEWS

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Marvel-Ious Exhibit

Comic books and the Santeria religion come will together in a groundbreaking exhibit at Manhattan's Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute.

"Santerians: The Art of Joe Quesada," opens Friday at the center, 408 W. 58th St., from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It will run through July 30.

"The Santerians," billed as the Latin American superhero team, are the focus of the exhibition of original illustrations of Quesada's work from the Marvel Comic series "Daredevil: Father," where the popular Marvel character meets the new superheroes on the block.

Quesada, a respected illustrator, is known for his innovative and successful work with Marvel Comics as its editor-in-chief. The exhibit is being curated by Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez of Somos Arte, a New York-based creative services firm, in collaboration with Marvel Comics.

Original concept drawings for the characters - named Ogun, Oshun, Oya, Chango and Elegua after Orishas or Santeria spirits - are inspired by deities from the Yoruba-based sacred traditions from Nigeria that became the Santeria religion in the Western Hemisphere.

The unique display of the characters in the exhibition has gallery walls colored to represent each Orisha's individuality and powers. Visitors also will be able to get a peek at the comic book creation process through concept drawings and original full-color digital masters from the "Daredevil: Father" comic book.

The Santerians exhibit also will kick off the cultural center's 2007 season of public programs. The first in the series - "Black Ink," a panel discussion that examines the diversity of illustrations and animation created by African descendants in the Caribbean, America and Latin America - will be held March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

For information the exhibit and the center's programs, call (212) 307-7420, ext.3006 or visit www.cccadi.org.