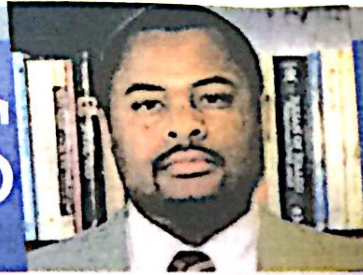


SHREVEPORT VOICES

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Centenary alumnus awarded fellowship, co-authors book. 5G

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DOUGLAS COLLIER/THE TIMES

Marlene Yu poses next to the main gallery at the Marlene Yu Museum housed in what once was the YWCA building in downtown Shreveport. The museum will hold a grand opening Dec. 21 with works by Yu and pieces associated with their Rainforest Art Foundation.

MARLENE YU MUSEUM

will open in former YWCA building

By Jada Durden
Special to The Times

No longer home to the YWCA, the building at 710 Travis St., in Shreveport has been transformed into the headquarters of an international foundation and contemporary art

museum.

The Rainforest Art Foundation, a nonprofit founded in New York City in 2001 by professional artist Marlene Tseng Yu, purchased the 36,500-square-foot building in September 2013. Its mission: to increase appreciation of nature through art.

"When we enjoy nature, we appreciate it more. When we appreciate it more, we take care of it more" said Stephanie Lusk, director of the Rainforest Art Foundation and Marlene Yu Museum.

See MUSEUM, Page 2G



DOUGLAS COLLIER/THE TIMES

A piece by local artist Joe Bluhm of Moonbot is ready to hang for a show as part of the Rainforest Art Foundation.



DOUGLAS COLLIER/THE TIMES



A piece by local artist Taffie Garsee is ready to hang for a show as part of the Rainforest Art Foundation.