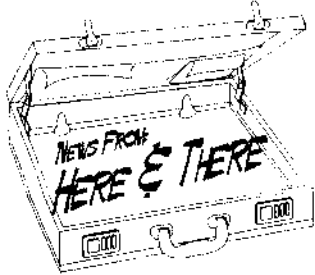


OFF THE WALL

News & Views from **JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY**

Published for Ethnic Art Lovers Everywhere

Spring 2000

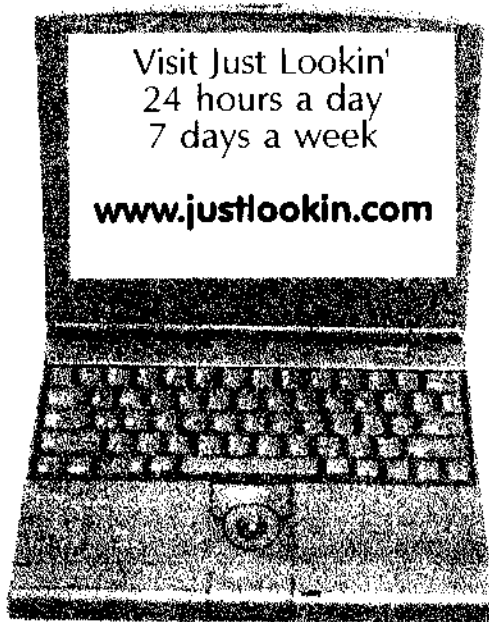


We hope all of you have made plans to join us in Chicago for **COLOR -The Chicago Black Fine Art Exposition** May 19 to May 21. The first show of its kind in the Windy City, it promises to be the most diverse show of black fine art ever in the Midwest. We are looking forward to seeing old

friends and making new ones. ❖ **Margaret Warfield** has become the darling of Walt Disney World! Her painting 'Connections' was the official poster for Black Heritage Month and she was a feature artist at opening and closing ceremonies. ❖ We never know what direction **Charly Palmer** is going in next. We have a new series of jazz musicians and he painted several truly wonderful dancers. This are all quite different from the paintings you all loved so much when he was here last November. ❖ **James Denmark** has been experimenting again. Take a look at the backgrounds on his latest pieces. He has been painting on glass plates and pressing them onto the paper. The technique adds a new dimension and depth to his mixed media pieces. And check out the new mask pieces he's done recently. ❖ **Katherine Kisa** is going off in new directions. She's taken old records (remember those?) and painted over them in her inimitable style. ❖ We don't know how **Paul Goodnight** even manages to catch up with himself. He recently completed "Sweet Cider Sounds Echoing From a Brownstone Chamber" to grace the cover of The Boys Choir of Harlem Official 30th Anniversary Magazine. This 30" x 40" mixed-media painting is pure layer on layer brilliance. And all you visitors to the Orlando Airport will be regaled with a fifty-foot mosaic of his. ❖ Finally got more copper pieces from **Buchi Upjohn**. Seems like we sell them out as quickly as they arrive! ❖ We have convinced **Cal Massey** to share some of his early studies and sketches with his collectors. We have several early 80's pieces and are eagerly awaiting more. ❖ Just heard a rumor that Howard University will be hosting 'Celebration and Vision: The Hewitt Collection of African-American Art' August 13 to October 14. The fifty -eight pieces in this collection (purchased by Bank of America in 1998) represent fifty years of John and Vivian Hewitt's (Continued Page 4, Column 1)



Some artists search for years to find their signature style. For Melvin it was just a matter of picking up a paint brush or a wood - carving tool. Intense colors, radiating lines and a flow that harkens back to the jazz that inspires his work are the hallmarks of Melvin's work. A master of both cubism and expressionism; his unique style exhibits an unbridled cacophony of both passion and spirituality. One of the few contemporary artists that sublimely carves wood, his woodcuts are beautiful renditions when first pulled. And yet Melvin quite often hand embellishes them with oil to further his artistic statement. Melvin's lust for life and his enjoyment of people is evident in both his art and his smile. But the art world was almost deprived of Melvin's gifts. Coming of age in Detroit in the early sixties, he was discouraged from choosing art as a career. Fortunately for us his natural talent could not be squelched, and by the mid 1970's Melvin was starting to experiment with the style that is now his own. African-American mentors were rare during this period and he cites Diego Rivera's murals as being a major influence in his life. By the early 80's collectors and academia were starting to take notice. He was commissioned by Schlitz Brewing to create the 1981 Detroit Blues Festival poster which immediately led to other commissions. But it was his move to New York City in 1986, numerous gallery shows and a stint at the Printmakers Workshop that catapulted him to worldwide recognition and a place in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Shows in Holland, Denmark, Sweden and France in the early 1990's brought his work to the attention of legions of collectors who continue to avidly seek (Continued Page 3, Column 2)



Thanks for bearing with us during the birth of our web site. Visit our virtual gallery and we think you will agree, it was worth the wait! We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

"The eye sees;
the mind understands."

Ibuza Proverb

Catch the Blues with Us!

Join us June 30 for the annual Hagerstown Blues Fest. We will be kicking off a two week show of the latest musical art from fifteen different artists. Live music will be in Hagerstown's Public Square - one block from Just Lookin.' Make plans to join us for a day of great blues music and art that reflects the sounds.

ARTY - FACTS

The Medium is the Message

No we aren't having a seance. The media of art is the material or technique an artist uses to produce a work of art. Here's a few of the most commonly used media:

- ◆ Acrylic - a synthetic paint that came into popular use in the 1940's. It has great versatility and quick drying time so it is a favorite among many artists.
- ◆ Bas Relief - A French term meaning "low raised work." It is a type of sculpture meant to be viewed from only one side.
- ◆ Batik - A way of dyeing cloth using removable wax to repel the dye on areas of the cloth where it is not wanted. Originated in Indonesia, but has been produced in parts of Africa for centuries.
- ◆ Collagraph - A print made from a low-relief collage.
- ◆ Charcoal - Compressed burnt wood use for drawing.
- ◆ Engraving - An intaglio print made by cutting slices of metal out of a plate.
- ◆ Etching - An intaglio prints produced by using acid to cut line into a metal plate.
- ◆ Gouache - A heavy, opaque watercolor paint producing a stronger color than regular watercolor. Also used to denote a painting made with this type of paint.
- ◆ Impasto - A thick application of paint or deep brushstrokes usually created with oil paint.
- ◆ Intaglio - Collective term for several graphic processes in which prints are made from ink trapped in the grooves of an incised (usually metal) plate.
- ◆ Linoleum Cut (Linocut) - A linoleum block or plate used for relief printing. It is cut much the same as a woodcut but the image is softer and without grain. Also refers to a print made by this method.
- ◆ Mixed-Media Painting - Produced by combining two or more media. (More next issue!)

Hanging UPs

Let's go out on a limb here and see if we can use clues from our favorite way of dressing to help design our frames and arrange our walls.

Do you love tailored suits? A linear arrangement with all the frames lining up at the top edge and pieces close to the same size will probably delight your eyes.

Think that everyday should be casual day? Mix and match your frames and let your walls flow.

Flowered dresses fill your closet? You will love textured or fabric mats and small scale, loose wall arrangements.

Dress with a flair for drama? Large frames and single spotlighted pieces may be what your walls crave.

Wear a lot of black or gray? Clean-edged modern framing and tight arrangements may be to your liking.

Ruffles and lace your style? Carved frames and hand decorated mats may be just what you need to make your walls sing.

Eclectic best describe your closet? Try bold frames with lots of texture and hang at interesting levels.

So - can we use hints from our wardrobe to design our walls? E-mail me at eileen@justlookin.com and give me your opinion.

Do you ever wonder what a piece of art would look like in your home or office? Wish you could see the colors in the room



where it's going to hang? Just Lookin' will provide a complimentary home or office consultation within a 75 mile radius of the gallery. Don't guess, see exactly how the colors fit into your environment. Call today and make an appointment.

"Education is all a matter of building bridges"

Ralph Ellison

Spotlight (Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

his latest stylings. Many of his paintings are sold before he can finish them and there is often a waiting list for his pieces. Much of his work in America is on public display in schools, subway stations and at numerous music festivals.

Yet Melvin seems totally unfazed by fame. He would rather discuss music or tennis or other artists than talk about himself. He was as amazed as he was pleased when the International Review of African American Art featured one of his serigraphs. I think that is one of the reasons we respect him so much.

Don't Miss An Issue !!!

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- ❖ Call and tell us you would like to receive the next issue - OR
- ❖ Subscribe for \$15.00 per year (US only)



SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

5th Annual Spring Fling

Saturday - April 29

1 PM to 8 PM

Sunday - April 30

11 AM to 6 PM

Holiday Inn

8777 Georgia Ave

Silver Spring, MD

(495 Exit 31 - Lots of free parking)

May 19 - 21

'COLOR'

The Chicago Black Fine Art Exposition

Navy Pier, Chicago

June 11

Invitation Only Show

Crown & Glory


New York

News (continued from Page 1, Column 1)

passion for art and stand as a living testament to the flowering of African-American art in the twentieth century. And with the passing of John Hewitt earlier this year, the importance of preserving and displaying this collection becomes even more poignant. ❖ If you haven't seen the latest **Dorothy Wright** paintings, they are worth the trip to Hagerstown! There is just no way to describe these unique 3-dimensional mixed-media pieces. We sold out of her work at the New York show and suspect we will do the same in Chicago. ❖ **Deborah Shedrick** has intensified her color palette and her newest pieces jump off the paper. ❖ We just received some new pastels and graphites from **Mario Robinson**. If you love realism, he has a wonderful touch. ❖ **Clarence Page's** 'Fire-Brushed Copper' pieces are getting a lot of attention and the newest pieces have even more texture. ❖ **Dane Tilghman** was honored with a commission to create a 10' x 50' Negro Leagues mural for the Atlanta Braves. It will be unveiled at the All-Star game. ❖ **Kevin Holder's** painting "Checkmate at Dupont Circle" recently won the DC Arts Council competition. ❖ Join us at **COLOR - The Chicago Black Fine Art Exposition** May 19-21.

Until then- Happy Collecting

"A Brush of Culture" Home Art Parties



Get a few friends together and enjoy the latest art in the comfort of your home. We can produce a show around a theme such as jazz or history; show strictly original works or a general selection of gallery offerings.

All you have to do is invite at least 25 and no more than 100 friends, and provide light refreshments. Just Lookin' provides invitations, promotional materials and a great host/hostess incentive package. We are currently reserving dates for Spring 2000. Don't miss the chance to have the luxury of a "gallery for a day" in your home.

"An artist must be free to choose what he does, certainly, but he must also never be afraid to do what he might choose."

Langston Hughes

We Need Feedback!

We appreciate all your calls saying you enjoy the newsletter. What can we do to make it an even more valuable tool and resource for you? What would you like to see discussed? Would you like more framing tips or more artist news or? Call and give us ideas for future issues or E-mail us at justlookin.com. All callers or E-mail respondents will receive a \$20 gift certificate. Who said your opinion isn't worth anything!

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