

OFF THE WALL

News & Views from JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY

Published for Ethnic Art Lovers Everywhere

Summer/Fall 2000



We once again braved steamy Atlanta in August to bring you the latest news from The National Black Arts Festival and its three sister festivals. Those of you that didn't get a chance to attend missed incredible art and a chance to meet over 200 artists.

Most of the action seemed to center around Greenbriar Mall which kept the original spirit of the Festival alive with ten days of artists. Atlanta University Center (the new home of the NBAF) had visual artists in for the last weekend of the Festival only; locating the event was a challenge even for us seasoned Art Lovers that can find art by osmosis. Underground Atlanta and South DeKalb Mall hosted the Heritage Festival with a variety of both established and emerging artists plus a large group of artisans. ❖ Festivities kicked off with an open house at Studioplex on Auburn Avenue. This new studio, living and retail space is a great concept and some of Atlanta's best artists have space there including **Carl Owens**, **Louis DelSarte** and ceramic artist **James Few**. Put it on your list of places to visit next time you are in Atlanta.

❖ **Gilbert Young** has some hauntingly beautiful new graphite pieces which he unveiled at a reception the APEX Museum held in his honor. He broke my heart by selling the only abstract landscape we have ever see him paint, hope he takes this hint and paints a few more! ❖ **Charly Palmer** is evolving again. Seems like every time we get new pieces from him he's been exploring a different realm of artistic expression. ❖ **Grace Kisa** has also headed in a wonderful new direction. She created a new series of ethereal flowing people in soft color blendings. She sold all she had at the show but we will be getting a few soon. Don't miss them. ❖ Finally got a few charcoal pieces from **Curtis James**. These incredibly detailed renditions emanate emotion. ❖ By the time you read this we will have the Stained-glass stylings of **Samuel Hodge** in the gallery. We have been looking for high quality glass art for years and we have never seen work this exciting. He takes glass art to another dimension - literally! Many of his pieces are 3-dimensional sculptured glass panels in a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns. ❖ **Maurice Evans** has just pulled a new silk-screen. Called "Blowin' My Mind," this moody piece is a great one to add to your collection of Maurice's musical (Continued Page 4, Column 1)

Reflections on the Passing of a Master *Jacob Lawrence 1917 - 2000*

The entire art world shared the sorrow of Jacob Lawrence's death on June 9. Few artists achieve the notoriety of Lawrence and he will long be remembered, not just for his paintings but for his contribution to furthering the validity of artists of color everywhere.

His arrival in New York at the age of seven, at the height of the Harlem Renaissance, put him on the path that would define his life. Enrolled in the Utopia Children's Center (an after-school arts & crafts program) as a teenager, he came under the tutelage of artist Charles Alston. After dropping out of high school and working with the Civilian Conservation Corps to help support his family during the Great Depression; Lawrence became associated with Augusta Savage and other artists at the Harlem Community Art Center. An assignment from the Works Progress Administration, combined with the influence of the Museum of Modern Art's 1935 show of African Art, led to his painting of the forty-one panel Toussaint L'Ouverture series in 1937. He quickly became primarily known for narrative series. His most famous is "The Migration of the Negro" (painted in 1940-41). These sixty panels won wide critical acclaim when exhibited in November of 1941 at a prestigious New York Gallery and gave Lawrence the honor of being the first African-American artist to have mainstream (Continued Page 3, Column 2)

RISING STARS

We are proud to introduce the latest additions to the Just Lookin' family of artists.

Darlington Dike Ike - hailing from Nigeria, Darlington uses fiberglass and resins as the base for his brilliantly colored mixed-media constructions.

Charles Grant - using textile dyes as his primary medium, Charles' work blends African and Asian symbolism.

Flora Hammond - Her primitive folksy style has brought Flora legions of collector's throughout the South. She is just completing a series of linocuts we know you will love.

Gary Jones - sculpting the body in dance is Gary's forte. His bronze sculptures have a variety of interesting patinas including stone. A master puppeteer, Gary just recently began sharing his sculpture with the world.

Richard Norris - You may not know his name, but his print "Mother's Pearl" sold out immediately in the early 90's. Sublimely proficient in pencil and prisma-color, Richard creates in many mediums.

Pita Ohewere - a young Nigerian master in oil, Pita has a truly unique style. He scratches through wet paint creating a textured, impressionistic rendering.

James Taylor - with a wonderful touch in watercolor, James' paintings exude warmth and Southern charm.

"Art washes away from the soul
the dust of everyday life."

Pablo Picasso

ARTY - FACTS

The Medium is the Message- Part 2
(If you missed Part 1, call for a copy of our Spring issue)

- ◆ **Monoprint** - Series of prints sharing a common image with differences in color, texture or design.
- ◆ **Monotype** - One-of-a-kind print made by painting on a plate (usually of glass or metal) and pressing onto paper. The pressure of the printing creates a texture that can't be achieved by painting onto paper.
- ◆ **Oil Paints** - Slow drying paint made by mixing pigments with an oil usually linseed oil. The oil drying to a hard film protects the brightness of the colors. Oils are usually opaque and used on canvas. Examples on our website: work by Melvin Clark, Kevin Holder and others.
- ◆ **Oil Pastel** - Pigment mixed with oil and pressed into a stick.
- ◆ **Opaque** - something that can not be seen through.
- ◆ **Paint** - Pigment which is mixed with a liquid and a binder. Types of paint include acrylic, gouache, oil and watercolor.
- ◆ **Pastel** - Pigment mixed with gum and pressed into a stick form. Works of art done with these pigments are called pastels.
- ◆ **Pigment** - Finely powdered material that produces the color of any medium. Pigment becomes paint, ink or dye when mixed with oil or another fluid. When pressed with gum or into wax it becomes a pastel or crayon.
- ◆ **Relief** - Printing method where a block of wood, linoleum or other material is carved so an image can be printed. The uncarved areas receive ink which transfers to the paper.
- ◆ **Serigraphy** - A Stencil method of printmaking. The image is imposed on a screen of silk or other fine mesh, blank areas are coated with an impermeable substance and ink is forced through the mesh onto the printing surface. Also called silk-screen or screen printing. A serigraph is a print made by this method.
- ◆ **Wash** - A thin layer of pigment, usually watercolor or India ink, often used for the background of a pen & ink drawing. It is usually applied with long sweeping strokes. See George Nock's work on our website for examples
- ◆ **Watercolor** - Pigment mixed with water to produce a transparent paint. Also refers to a painting produced with this pigment. Check out watercolors by James Denmark, Kenny Gatewood and James Taylor on our website.
- ◆ **Woodcut** - Relief print made by cutting a design into a block of wood. Ink is transferred from the raised surfaces to the paper. Prints usually have black lines on white.
- ◆ **Wood Engraving** - Relief print made from an image cut into a block of wood. The design is cut so that the background is the part that is inked. Usually have fine details and white lines on black.

HPing UPS

Okay - so we have just returned from Summer vacation with new art, artifacts, momentos, and a myriad of objects competing for wall space. What are we going to do with all of it?

Memory boxes are a great way to combine three-dimensional objects and momentos with photos, event tickets, menus, etc. into a 'work of art' to hang on the wall or stand on the mantle, shelf or table. We can make these any size to include any number of elements. They are the most exciting to view if we combine a mix of flat and dimensional items. Here's a few hints to get you started:

- * Seashells, beach photos and dried flowers look sweet in the bathroom.
- * Airline tickets, menus (or matchbooks) and photos are a great way to preserve memories of your vacation.
- * Photos, a baseball cap or T-shirt and a travel guide are a wonderful reminder of your trip.
- * Sports fans - get all those balls, old jerseys, game tickets, schedules, etc. out of the closet and up on the wall!
- * Recently married? We can do magic with an invitation, garter, a bit of lace or flowers and a few photos.
- * Car racing fan? A program, tickets, cap and a model of your favorite car and you have a work of art for your den or garage.
- * Avid gardener? An empty seed packet, toy shovel and a photo of those great tomatoes will help you preserve summer forever.

These are just a few quick ideas. Bring us a bag of your treasures and we will design a unique keepsake box that will be adored for generations.

gallery representation. Around this same time, Fortune Magazine published an article on him including illustrations of some of the panels. In addition, he married fellow artist Gwendolyn Knight that same year. By the late 1940's Lawrence had become the most prominent African-American painter in America. As a teacher at several prestigious institutions, Lawrence motivated countless budding artists; there are few painting today that haven't in some way been impacted by his talent. From his artistic platform of social narration; he was able to not only reflect upon social conditions but also to presage changes as the public reacted to his visual ruminations. This dual legacy will continue to inspire and motivate generations. Indeed, we felt his influence many places at the Atlanta shows - his tradition will live forever.

**"Art completes what nature can not bring to finish."
Aristotle**



If you haven't been to our webpage for awhile - take a look! We've added lots of new images into the artists gallery and artist Gilbert Young is our new feature artist. Take a sneak peak before the Fall shows. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

September 24
"THE ART OF BEAUTY"
1 PM to 8 PM
Crown & Glory Salon
New York City

October 7
"CULTURE & LEGACY"
AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART FEST
Noon to 8 PM
Hampton Inn - Frederick, MD

October 22
6TH ANNUAL FALL FLING
Noon to 7 PM
Holiday Inn - New Carrollton, MD

November 4 - 5
"Expressions of Dignity - A 25 Year Journey"
Meet Award Winning Artist
GILBERT YOUNG
Just Lookin' Gallery
1 PM to 8 PM

News (continued from Page 1, Column 1)

musings. ❖ **Margaret Warfield** is painting in a long, skinny format that looks great with her trademark bold colors. ❖ **Preston Sampson** has been busy painting his trademark warm tones. And a lot of his new pieces are small - perfect for those of us that are space stressed. ❖ We have welcomed several **new artists** to the family including two new Nigerian artists. "Rising Stars" on page 2 introduces each of them. ❖ **Dorothy Wright** has been busy creating a new series of her wonderful mixed-media paintings. ❖ **Roederick Vines** is a master of both color and texture. We know you'll agree when you see his new small paintings. ❖ Finally got a couple **Lionel Lofton** original mixed-media. These are very different than his watercolors that you've seen. ❖ **Nate Bustion** has a great series of etchings printed in a long narrow format. ❖ I know you will like the distorted figures and sizes of **Willie Schofield's** music themed acrylic works. ❖ We heard a rumor that **Carl Owens** has been doing incredible new pastels. His pastel work is breathtaking and he hasn't done many since the mid 80's. We expect to have a few for you by the Fall shows. ❖ Also heard that there may be a few new **James Denmark** watercolors on the way. ❖ Our **fall shows** promise the most diverse collection of art we have ever exhibited. Hope to see you there. Until then, **Happy Collecting!**

Tribute to William Tolliver

1951 - 2000

It is thankfully seldom that I have to report the passing of two artists in the same issue. It was a shock to get the call from Atlanta telling me of the premature death of William Tolliver on September 1st. Just 48 years old, his creativity was cut short by a fatal heart attack. Tolliver will long be remembered for his powerful figurative paintings; musicians and strong woman being his favorite subjects. From his first public showing in the early 1980's to his recent reception during the NBAF; Tolliver combined elements of cubism and abstraction with brilliant colors to forge a distinctive style.

Tolliver's untimely death reminded all of us how fleeting our time can be. To me it is also a call to cherish the time with have with all artists and especially to pay homage to our elderly treasures; Elizabeth Catlett, Ernie Crichlow, John Biggers and Artis Lane immediately come to mind. Let's not wait until they have passed to shower them with the accolades they so richly deserve while living.

"For me a painting should have three things: universality, clarity and strength. Universality so that it may be understood by all men. Clarity and strength so that it may be aesthetically good."

Jacob Lawrence

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