

OPEN THE WALL

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM JUST LOCKIN' GALLERY

Published for ethnic art lovers everywhere Winter 1997



NEWS FROM- HERE & THERE

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture recently selected **Joseph Holston's** "Night at the Casbah" for its permanent collection. ♦ **Michael Brown's** second sculpture, "The Call of Freedom" is really taking shape. The carvings of the horn promise to be a lesson in Black History. ♦ **Larry 'Poncho' Brown** is doing great recovering from the fire and sends thanks to all of you for your kind thoughts. Don't miss his Collector's Plates. ♦ Many of you are familiar with **Ron & Adele Witherspoon's** (Rondell) fiber artistry. Their latest works will knock you out. Using a 'loose thread' technique, their "Diva" series is a marriage of movement and texture. ♦ **Verna Hart** is busy coordinating "Subway Serenade" - the fabrication of 14 of her jazz images into stained glass for the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority. ♦ We just received several new abstracts from **Grace Kisa**. They have a wonderful flow to them and incredible warmth. We also have a great selection of her mini flower sculptures on canvas. Great for gift giving! ♦ **Jerry Prettyman** has just completed his commissioned mural for the Kansas City Jazz Museum. ♦ Just when we think **Maurice Evans** can't get any better - he pushes his creativity to new dimensions. His latest works are pure intoxicating color mixed with kinetic rhythms. We can't keep his jazz originals in stock! ♦ I really love **Dane Tilghman's** new works. His usual great use of color combined with artistic exaggeration give his art a warm, upbeat feel. His golf and baseball pieces are sure to make you smile. ♦ **Melvin Clark** has just completed the Mosaic Mural Project for the New York City School System and is busy creating new pieces for his spring European shows. ♦ **Darryl Daniels** keeps on rolling with new CD cover art. All music art collectors should take a look at his unique graphic style. ♦ **Katherine Kisa** has a new series of paintings combining copper foil, burlap and oil paints with very stylistic designs. I especially like her

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SPOTLIGHT ON CAL MASSEY

Cal's incredible energy belies the fact that he has been a professional artist for more than 40 years. His work transcends the four decades with timeless images of beautiful black women, African families, and his highly acclaimed "Genesis" series. The "Genesis" paintings interpret the first book of the Bible with vibrant colors and texture. Cal combines mastery of symmetry with his own blend of realism and mood to create paintings that float off the canvas and invoke an emotional response from the viewer. In addition to his painting, Cal is a master engraver. He has designed rings for the Armed Forces, and created over 200 medallic designs for the Franklin Mint and others. His most recent were designed for the US Mint to commemorate the 1996 Olympics. In 1992, he designed the monument, "Patriots of African Descent" for the Valley Forge Memorial Tribute. He also had the honor of being commissioned to design a bas relief sculpture for the Statue of Liberty Foundation. His illustrations have graced the pages of the Saturday Evening Post, Ebony magazine, and numerous books. Through all his acclaim and awards, Cal is one of the most down-to-earth people I have ever met. I believe this is why his work is so highly sought by both art lovers and serious collectors. Every time we see him, he has a new piece that beckons us to pay attention. It is easy to understand how he has become one of America's most loved and respected artists.

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A BRUSH OF CULTURE

Home Art Parties

Let us bring a mini art gallery into your home. We can produce a 'theme' show featuring only jazz art, historical pieces, just original works, etc. OR a general selection of gallery offerings.

All you have to do is invite at least 15 and no more than 50 friends, and provide light refreshments.

JUST LOOKIN' provides invitations, promotional materials, door prizes and a great host/hostess incentive package.

Dates for the winter and spring season are filling up fast! Call for details.

"ART IS HUMAN ACTIVITY HAVING FOR ITS PURPOSE THE TRANSMISSION TO OTHERS OF THE HIGHEST AND BEST FEELINGS TO WHICH MEN HAVE RISEN."

TOLSTOY

Your Opinion Counts!

This issue's topic: Art Shows

What do you expect to see when you attend an art show? Just fine art - paintings, etchings, etc. OR do you think clothing, jewelry and crafts should be included? Write, call or fax. We will publish responses next newsletter.

Protect Your Investment

Even if all your art is conservation framed (and we hope it is!), its smart to have it inspected by a professional framer at least every five years. An inspection includes:

- ❖ removing the dust cover
- ❖ inspecting the hinging of the artwork
- ❖ checking for acid migration, insect, moisture, and ultraviolet damage

If all is well, a new dust cover is put on. If not, a condition report is issued with recommendations on bringing it up to conservation standards. We charge \$25.00 for the first inspection piece and \$10.00 for each additional piece. A very small amount to protect your art.

ARTY - FACTS

"The Giclee Print"

Have you seen this latest printing technique? "Giclee" (ghee-clay) translates from the French as a 'spraying of ink.' The process is a marriage of computerized imaging, ink jet printing and fine art printmaking.

In the Giclee process the original image is scanned into a computer. Adjustments can be made for hue, value and density. A highly saturated water based ink is then sprayed in fine dots onto archival paper or canvas. An ultraviolet coating is then sprayed over the image.

The final prints have very high resolution and a dynamic color range. The color intensity is similar to a serigraph. That's the technical end - what about the esthetics?

I'm not one to be readily impressed by new technologies, but Giclees look good. The prints Kenny Gatewood has done are superior reproductions; capturing every nuance of his original watercolors. All the giclees we've seen have been strong translations of the original art. They have a much richer look than offset lithography. Most are done on watercolor paper to further the look of an original. Prices seem to be somewhat higher than offset, but less than serigraphs.

Giclees are definitely the new direction many publishers and artists are taking. As with all new printing methods, the ultimate success of the medium will be determined by art lovers and collectors. Take a look at a Giclee and tell us what you think.

GETTING FRAMED - 1997 Forecast

We've just seen the latest in frames and they are hot! They range from mild to wild. Cherry is making a strong comeback with updated shapes for today's modern art.

Carved frames are back also. These have a much different look than traditional gold frames of years past. They have a new range of metallics and colors with more contemporary styling.

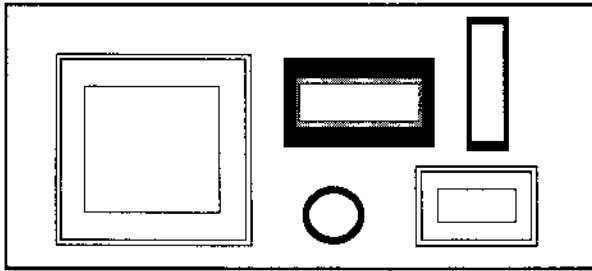
Earth and forest tones are staying strong with some great greens available. Copper, brushed silvery gold and champagne showed up in a lot of collections. They are great accent colors for today's decor.

We've also added lots of new mats to our selection - ranging from mottled metallics to great nubby linens. We even have some with gold veining that looks great on African art. And we've located some beautiful new fabrics for custom wrapped mats.

With so much to choose from - this might be the time to get that art out of the closet!

Hang Ups

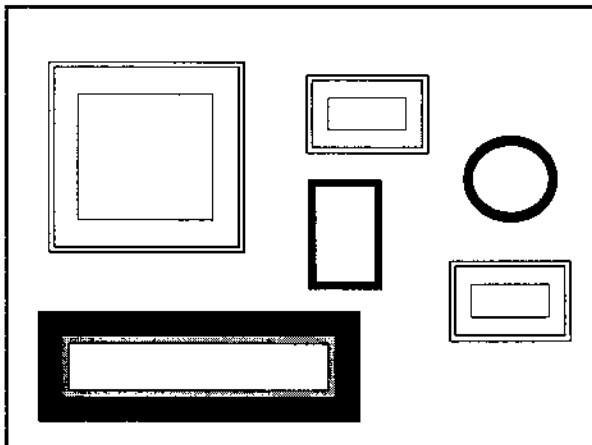
"I'm all out of wall space" is a common complaint of art lovers. Like many of you, I started with one large framed piece over the sofa. That same wall got soon two more pieces and before long my collection took over not only my wall space; it began piling up (still unframed) under the bed, in the closet, everywhere! That's



when I began to learn creative wall arranging. I also discovered many spots around the house that were instantly warmed when I hung art in unexpected places. Before we get to specific wall groupings, let's answer the questions I hear most.

- ❖ Frames do not have to match. If the mats and frame look great on the art, chances are it will harmonize with many other pieces.

- ❖ The subject matter in a grouping can all be the same if you have collections of ladies, jazz, kids, etc. However, if you collect the way I do (whatever talks to me) you will need to use similar color, texture, or mediums to tie together your



arrangements.

- ❖ Frames do not all have to be the same size (boring!). Small pieces grouped to offset a larger piece work very well.
- ❖ Frames do not have to line up at either the top or bottom. We'll talk more next issue about the "centerline."

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Collector's Corner

Going Quickly - we expect these to sellout before the end of 1996:

Family Tree	Keith Mallett
Brazilian Travelers	Paul Goodnight
Piano Still Life	Verna Hart

Recent Sell-Outs (we can still get these):

Warmth Within	LaShun Beal
Umoja	Charles Bibbs
The Promise	Don Strivers
Sweet Lilies	Charles Bibbs
In Mother's Hands	Keith Mallett
Lady in Black III	Charles Bibbs

We have just reacquired these long gone pieces:

View of the Bay (framed only)	Brenda Joysmith
Main Street Poolhall (framed only)	Ernie Barnes
Synergy	Alex Corbbrey

Don't miss our next newsletter

To stay on our mailing list:

- ❖ Make a purchase
- ❖ Call and ask to receive the Winter issue
- ❖ Subscribe for \$10.00 per year (4 issues and notification of all pre-publication offers)

"A PAINTER'S BRUSH CONSUMES HIS DREAMS." (TWO SONGS FROM A PLAY)

W.B. YEATS

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- ❖ Everything does not have to be symmetrical. In fact, asymmetry adds visual interest.

An easy way to design a wall arrangement is to lay the pieces on the floor and rearrange at will. If you stand on a chair and look down you will get an idea of what you will see on the wall.

Remember: If you think it looks good - it's right! Call or fax me with your wall arranging problems. We'll try to solve them and publish the most interesting.

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We have just acquired a collection of '60s to '70s work by Peter Max, Salvatore Dali, Max Ernst, and Joan Miro. These are all priced well below market. There are some wonderful examples of stone lithography and etching. These artists have stood the test of time and their work combines wonderfully with modern ethnic images.

We bring the world of art to your front door

JUST LOOKIN' will provide complimentary in home or office consultation within a 75 mile radius of our gallery. Don't guess, see how art will look in your environment. Call and schedule an appointment today.

This includes Baltimore City, Baltimore County, most of metropolitan D.C., most of Northern Virginia inside the beltway

Be Nice to Your Friends

Share our Newsletter - Call 1-800-717-4-ART and give us the names of up to three friends you know will enjoy this newsletter. We will send them a copy of our newsletter along with a \$10.00 gift certificate. **AND JUST LOOKIN'** will send you a \$10.00 gift certificate and our flier "10 Tips for Fantastic Framing". Mom was right - it pays to be nice!

**"A WORK THAT ASPIRES, HOWEVER HUMBL Y, TO THE
CONDITION OF ART SHOULD CARRY ITS JUSTIFICATION IN
EVERY LINE."**

JOSEPH CONRAD

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JUST LOOKIN' □ 40 Summit Avenue □ Hagerstown, MD 21740 □ 1-800-717-4ART □ (FAX) 301-714-2275

Steal this art!

I'm sure most of you remember Stars and Stripes by Michael Brown, the haunting image of an ex-slave sitting in front of a partial quote from the Declaration of Independence. The signed and numbered edition has been sold out for over two years and we continue to get calls from people wanting it. Secondary market sales have been as high as \$3,200.00. Michael is in the process of producing 25 A/P remarques of this sold out edition. The remarques we've seen exhibit Michael's usual attention to fine detail and each original sketch is unique.

These are selling for \$2,000.00 but Michael is making them available to our readers at a **\$500.00 savings** for \$1,500.00. With only 23 still available, these will sell out quickly. If you missed it the first time, don't wait! Color photos are available, but we are unable to provide specific remarques.

Michael's originals have been selling for \$10,000.00 and up. He offered **JUST LOOKIN'** a series of small original oil paintings for \$750.00 to \$2,500.00. If you can't get to the gallery, call for photos. But don't hesitate, Michael may come to his senses.

Pre-publication offers

Acclaimed artist, George Nock, is offering two pre-publication offers to our readers. "Soothsayer," shows an older man with the wisdom of the ages on his face. Size is approximately 23" x 26". Edition is 150 S/N on rag paper. Issue price is \$400.00, pre-publication price is \$300.00. "Pensive Moor," is a powerful and philosophical male image exuding both strength and sensitivity. Size is approximately 21" x 29". Edition is 150 S/N on rag paper. Issue price is \$400.00, pre-publication price is \$300.00.

Orders must be prepaid by 1/31/97 to get these special prices. We have photos of both available if you miss seeing the originals at the gallery. Phone and mail orders accepted.

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oil paints with very stylistic designs. I especially like her "No Evil" series. ♡ We've recently had the pleasure of starting a relationship with **Deborah Shedrick**. Her mixed media images combine realistic forms with abstract energy.

Until next time, Happy Collecting!