

JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY

News & Views from JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY

Published for Ethnic Art Lovers Everywhere

Winter 2000



Happy New Year! 1999 went so quickly we've hardly had time to take a breath. And 2000 is filling with activities quickly.

❖ We truly enjoyed "To Conserve A Legacy" at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. It's only there until January 31, make time to see this show if you haven't

already. ❖ Artist & Sculptor **Michael Brown** has been very busy. "Wrapsody", his third sculpture is almost sold out and his latest, "Infinity" is premiering at the Black Fine Art Show in New York. This latest bronze of a couple intertwined is sure to be an instant hit. ❖ **Eli Kince** has published his latest book, "I Remember Daddy - a true fiction." ❖ **Olivia Gatewood** has opened her gallery "Olivias" in Hillsborough, North Carolina. ❖ **Grace Kisa** is painting a series of spectacular new florals. Focusing on close-ups of flowers, they truly dance off the paper. We also just received a series of her small abstracts, perfect for all of us that are running out of wall space. ❖ **Charly Palmer** continues to amaze and delight. His new series of sketches are not to be missed. ❖ **Evita Tezeno** has gained a legion of new collectors since being featured in the November issue of Upscale Magazine. ❖ As promised, the **batiks** from Malawi Africa have arrived. We received over 100 in several sizes; subject matter includes wildlife, village scenes, seascapes and figuratives. ❖ **Keith Mallett** just completed the cover illustration for Kristine Lattany's book "Do Unto Others" being published by Random House in January. Keith also has the honor of being featured in an upcoming US Art article on African American artists. ❖ **LaShun Beal** has been busy painting "Celebrating Life." Being reproduced as a poster, proceeds will help raise money for breast cancer research. He also has several paintings featured in the recently published "Black Women in the Image of God." ❖ **James Denmark** keeps reaching new creative highs. We just received several new collages and watercolors that have incredible flow and his trademark skill with color. ❖ We hope all our East Coast friends are making plans to join us for the 4th annual **National Black Fine Art Show** February 4 - 6 at the Puck Building in Soho. It promises to be the finest

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Carl Owens

Prior to meeting Carl it was easy to simply consider him one of the best portrait artists that has ever lived. Now that we have had the privilege of experiencing over thirty years of his paintings, his versatility in all mediums places him in that brotherhood of artists that are truly exceptional. His most famous print "Little Flower" has adorned walls and television shows for years. But it shows just one facet of his virtuosity. Masterful in pen & ink, brilliant in pastels and sublimely seductive in acrylic, Carl has recently turned to oils to challenge himself and delight his collectors. We've known few artists that could manage dual careers as illustrators and fine artists. Carl shines in both arenas. The body of work he produced while teaching art in the Detroit Public Schools is truly remarkable. His illustrations have graced the pages of Ebony, Essence, Jet and Newsweek over the last thirty years. The studies for these demonstrate his mastery of simplicity and are a wonderful contrast to the intricate layering of his acrylics and pastels. Looking (and acting) far younger than his seventy years; Carl still paints every day and maintains that his finest work is yet to come. Women have been a favorite subject of his for years, some of his pastels and acrylics from the seventies are particularly evocative. My favorite drawings of his are studies of light and shadow he created in the early seventies. Using oil pastels on black velvet paper, these pieces are the epitome of artistic understatement. And the response they've gotten here so delighted Carl - he produced six new ones just for Just Lookin'.

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PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Fine works of art need to be handled with respect. Works on paper are especially sensitive to improper handling and storage. Conservation framing with proper glazing (glass) is the best long-term protection. Safe storage prior to framing is easy.

DO:

- ❖ Store art flat between sheets of acid-free board or in an acid-free jacket. If these are not available, plain waxed paper over the image is a good substitute.
- ❖ Store art in the driest, darkest spot you can find. Under the bed seems to be a favorite among our clients.
- ❖ Handle art gently. Always hold with both hands to avoid bending corners.

DONT:

- ❖ Leave art in any type of cardboard. This includes cardboard tubes that art is shipped in. If you must leave art in the tube, wrap the entire outside of the art in waxed paper.
- ❖ Fold or tightly roll any work on fabric or canvas. Oil paint will crack and flake if rolled.
- ❖ Place heavy objects on top of a piece of art.

No one is without knowledge except
him who asks no questions.
-- West African Proverb

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)

ARTY - FACTS

You Lost What Wax ?

Most bronze sculpture (and lots of jewelry) is created by a process called lost wax casting. This term really refers to the process to make the mold into which the molten metal is then pored. Bronze is an alloy of copper, lead, tin and zinc. It dates back to about the fifth century B.C. and the technique of lost wax casting has been in widespread use ever since. Most of the great bronze masterpieces we see in museums including the wonderful Benin bronzes have been created using the lost wax method. It is a complicated technique involving artist and metal foundry artisans to create the finished masterpiece.

First the artist creates the sculpture, usually in clay or wax. A flexible rubber mold is then made from the original. Molten wax is pored into the rubber mold. This produces a faithful casting of the original sculpture. After the wax is removed from the mold, hand-finishing is done on the wax so that the mold is a perfect rendition of the original.

Wax rods called gates are applied to the wax casting so that the wax can be removed. Funnels called sprues are then attached to receive the molten bronze. The next stage is called investing. The wax casting is then coated with several layers of a liquid ceramic which creates a stable mold. This is allowed to cure for several days.

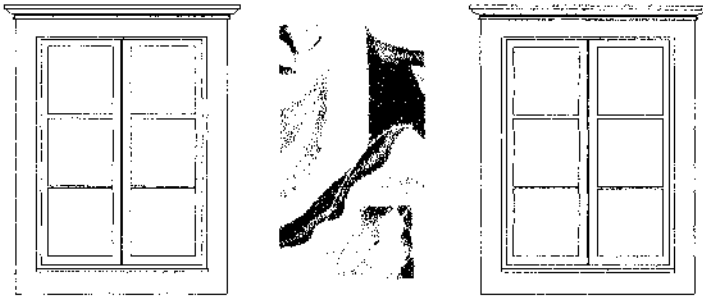
Now we get to the burn out stage. (No this is not a reference to the artist working too hard.) The ceramic mold is fired in a kiln. This bakes the ceramic and burns out the wax, leaving a cavity in its place. This is the final phase before the actual casting of the sculpture. The ceramic mold is filled with molten bronze at a temperature of about 2100F. After the bronze has cooled, the mold is broken away, and the sculpture is ready for the finishing stages.

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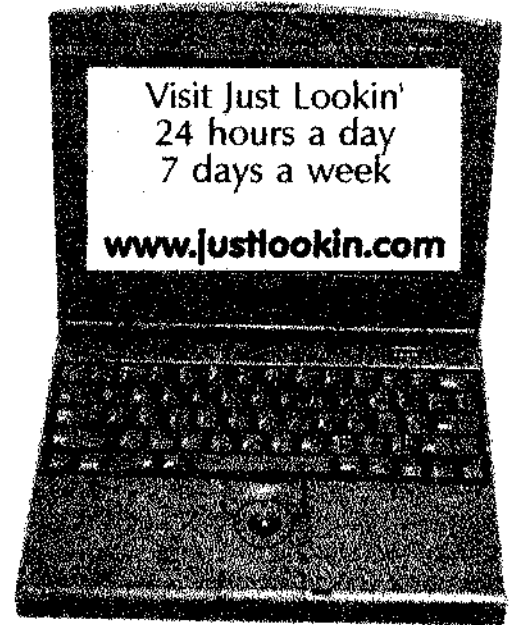
Hanging UPs

What do you do with the long, skinny space between two windows or next to the door? Think vertical!

These spaces have great potential for vertical drama. They are a great spot to mix in masks and African artifacts. Stack similar size narrow pieces and let them cascade down to the furniture. Because small walls are not competing with large pieces of furniture, this is a great space to mix subject matter and mediums. As long as the images are center weighted or have a vertical orientation, they will work.



The art can be the same size as the windows or considerably smaller. Smaller pieces give a looser, more informal look. A single piece can be more dramatic and formal. You can also hang two similar pieces that flow together or have color relation. This is a wonderful place to stack small abstracts. Can't decide which one to put on top? Look for the piece that has the most activity in the center for the top position and the piece that seems "bottom heavy" for the under. If both pieces have equal weight decide which one feels best. Another great wall treatment for those long narrow spaces is a mix of very small framed pieces and a mask or carving. Hang the mask high and group the small pieces under. Group an uneven number of pieces for the most visual interest. Children's art is usually just the right size to hang between windows in an informal setting. This can be a perfect solution for odd shaped wall areas anywhere in the house and it gives your budding artists a chance to shine!



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.

" Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it."

Robert Motherwell

Spotlight (Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

His art is collected both nationally and internationally. The governments of Egypt, Grenada, Zambia and Zimbabwe are among his collectors. His art has been exhibited worldwide and many of his finest paintings were inspired by the people and places of his travels. We never know what Carl's going to show us next. His penchant for experimentation helps to drive him, and all of us that admire his art are enriched by his commitment to excellence.

SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sneak Preview Weekend

New Year - New Art
January 22 & 23

See the newest creations from your favorite artists before we show in NY

February 4 - 6

National Black Fine Art Show

Puck Building - Soho, NY
visit us in Booth 21

February 9 - 18

"Honoring History - Celebrating Diversity"
Black History Trivia Contest

Saturday & Sunday

February 19 - 20

Just Lookin's

5th Anniversary Soiree

Meet Artist & Sculptor
Michael Brown

6th Annual Spring Fling

April 29 & 30

Holiday Inn - Silver Spring, MD

May 19 - 21

Chicago Fine Art Show

*"All our knowledge has its origins
in our perceptions."*

Leonardo da Vinci

News (continued from Page 1, Column 1)

collection of original African, African American and West Indian art ever in one venue. ❖ **Buchi Upjohn** mentioned how lots of people he met in Philadelphia told him about being introduced to his work at Just Lookin'. We just received some wonderful paintings of his and more of his copper works. ❖ **Carolyn Crump** is the newest addition to our family. Her mixed-media paintings have been an instant hit. ❖ We hope our friends in the Metro Area join us Saturday **February 19** & Sunday **February 20**. Artist **Michael Brown** will be featured for our **5th Anniversary Celebration** and Blues Musician **Pete Lancaster** will be entertaining us on Sunday.

Until then- Happy Collecting

Arty-Facts (continued from Page 2, Column 2)

The gates and sprues must be cut away and these areas blended into the casting. This is called chasing. Sandblasting may be done to help remove any traces of ceramic.

The final stage is the patination. The chased bronze is treated with heat and chemicals to give it the coloration the artist has planned. This patina is the first thing most of us notice when we see sculpture. While most of us think of bronze as a coppery gold color, patinas can run the gamut from almost white to very dark black.

Clients often ask us if the price on bronze sculpture is fair. We believe that the amount of painstaking craftsmanship and handwork needed to produce each piece more than justifies the prices we have seen in the marketplace. Bronze sculpture is an investment. It is one of the oldest art forms and continues to be one of the most valuable art techniques.

"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.

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