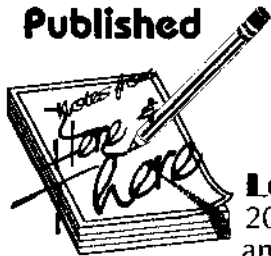


# OFF THE WALL

News & Views from JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY

Published for Ethnic Art Lovers Everywhere

Winter 2001



**Happy New Year!** The **Just Lookin'** family thanks you for making 2000 an exceptional year. We are amazed and grateful at how far many of you traveled to visit us last year. We have always known that most of our visitors average about an hour's travel from their home to Just Lookin'. 2000 brought frequent visitors from Philadelphia, North Carolina, Ohio and lots from New Jersey and New York. I guess the word is out that we have one of the largest collections of original African-American art on the East Coast! ❖ Mark your calendars and do not miss the **5th Annual National Black Fine Art Show** February 2 - 4 at the Puck Building in Soho. Show times are in the calendar on page 4. ❖ **Carl Owens** has graced us with several new pieces. Including just painted oils, acrylics and pastels; we also managed to wrest away a few more pieces from the sixties and seventies. ❖ **Gilbert Young's** lecture at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania was attended by a huge group of students and faculty alike. We expect to see a lot more artists hitting the lecture circuit and more actively working with civic organizations as black artists in America are finally getting long overdue respect and support. ❖ **Eli Kince** was doubly honored recently. First he was awarded the '2000 Design Laureate' award by the Rochester Institute of Technology School of Design's Center for Electronic Visual Design. Then the Nubian Woman's Art Circle presented him with an Art Circle Award. Leroy Campbell and Tafa were also honored by the NWAC. ❖ **Mario Robinson** was featured in Honey Magazine and the February issue of the prestigious "The Artist Magazine." "The Artist Magazine" is a great coup for this young artist as they have been mostly blind to artists of color. Meet him at Just Lookin' the last weekend in February. ❖ **Cal Massey** has been busy illustrating a series of children's books for The American Bible Society. He was also commissioned by Dover Press to create all the illustrations for the coloring book "African-American Women in History." ❖ We're thrilled at the great reception you have given **Darlington Dike Ike's** fiberglass mixed media constructions. The judges at the Palm Harbor Art & Craft show just awarded him both the Art Fest 2000 Most Popular Award and their prestigious Patron's Award. ❖ **Keith Mallett's** etchings

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Whenever we try to explain 'mixed-media' to our clients we show them a Dorothy Wright creation. Every one of her paintings is a mixed-media, multidimensional construction. Dorothy's most amazing skill is her seamless combination of three-dimensional objects and fabrics with painted imagery. If you haven't yet seen a Dorothy Wright painting, there is no easy way to describe a work that beckons you to reach out and touch it. Once you have seen one, you will never forget her style. A Southern lady who celebrated both her 71st birthday (sorry Dorothy, I told) and 50th Anniversary in the year 2000; her subject matter reflects the story of her life mixed with her vision of beauty. Growing up in South Carolina, Dorothy's early life was not the pretty pictures she paints. But her spirit and talent transcend the hardships and focus only on the beauty she remembers. Lush flowers, colorful clothing, and perfect multimedia details suffuse her work with incredible warmth. A High School valedictorian, Dorothy graduated summa cum laude from Chafin College and immediately embarked on the career that would be her life for the next 32 years, teaching art in South Carolina public schools. She was elected Teacher of the Year, C.A. Brown High School three times; 1972, 1981 and 1982. Many of her students have gone on to professional arts careers. A fortuitous meeting with the great educator Septima Clark in 1949 proved to be a blessing for Dorothy as she was later commissioned to paint a portrait

(Continued Page 3 Column 2)

# ARTY - FACTS

## The Nasty 'C' Word!

### New Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Friday 10 AM to 7 PM  
Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM  
Sunday Noon to 5 PM

Gallery will be closed on Mondays  
beginning March 5.  
Appointments are available.

"Black art has always existed.  
It just hasn't been looked for  
in the right places."

Romare Beardon

### "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 2001. Don't miss the  
chance to have the luxury of a  
"gallery for a day" in your home.

"The power of imagination  
created the illusion that my  
vision went much farther  
than the naked eye could  
actually see."

Nelson Mandela

Now that we have talked  
about various mediums - it's time to discuss the big C  
word - **COLLECTING!** I know of no other term in the  
ethnic art world that draws such mixed emotions. Do you  
consider yourself an art lover, connoisseur, collector; or all  
or none of the above? I think anyone reading this  
acknowledges their love of art. So why are some of us  
collectors and others are not? Does it have to do with  
passion, the size of one's bank account or other much  
more esoteric considerations? One of our clients said he  
became a collector the day he bought a painting that cost  
more than five thousand dollars. Yet another client calls  
herself a collector and she has never paid more than five  
hundred dollars for any piece. So what are the common  
traits of all collectors regardless of price considerations?

- ❖ Art is both a passion and an avocation for a collector. For many collectors it is their main hobby.
- ❖ Collectors travel to wherever the art and artists can be found.
- ❖ Collectors concentrate on acquiring originals and original hand-pulled graphics. Giclees and limited edition offset prints are not where we tend to spend our money.
- ❖ Collectors place the acquisition of art on the same level of importance as buying a luxury car or taking a cruise.
- ❖ Even though few of us would ever consider selling the art we have collected, collectors appreciate the growth in value of their pieces.
- ❖ Collectors continue to buy after every inch of wall space is filled.
- ❖ Collectors of even modest means find a way to buy original art.

The true love of art propels many art buyers into becoming collectors. Next issue we will share one couple's journey into collecting. Call or e-mail us with your story.

# Hang Ups

Maybe this issue's Hang Ups should be called Sit Ups. No, not the exercise kind. Sculpture, ceramics and wood carvings have become such hot sellers around here, I think we should talk about arranging them. 3-dimensional objects open a whole new world of decorating possibilities and challenges. Mantels, tables, shelves, floors and wall niches come to life. Where to set objects depends on both the object and your lifestyle. Some objects demand floor space, others project from walls. Practicality must rule placement.

*I'm a firm believer that 3 dimensional pieces will tell you where they need to be placed if you just live with them for a few days and see how the relationship develops.*

## **Let's answer a few basic questions:**

- How massive and heavy is the object?
- How tactile is the object? Is it a piece that you are going to want to touch? What kind of relationship to you want with this particular object?
- Do you want to view the object from all sides? Most Sculpture and carvings are detailed on all sides, but some ceramics (Andreas Goff's work for example) have a definite front and back.
- Is the object breakable? Do you have young children or a cat? A clumsy husband?
- Is there a shelf or nook in your house crying out for a splash of shape or color?
- Is the detail of the piece stronger at the top, bottom or sides? As with paintings, the answer to this helps us decide how high to place the object.
- Do you have a way to light the object?

Answer the above questions and you will be well on the way to living with any type of sculpture or three-dimensional object. In the spring issue we'll tackle do's and don'ts, proper lighting, pedestals and caring for dimensional objects. Call or e-mail us with any questions or comments. We'll try to include them in the Spring issue.

Spotlight (Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

of Clark, for the Septima Clark Child Development Center in 1978. Nearly twenty years later she was commissioned by the City of Charleston to paint an oil portrait of Clark which proudly hangs in City Hall. Dorothy's time as a civil rights activist in the sixties and seventies added personal poignancy to the portrait of Denmark Vesey she was commissioned to paint in 1976. The Vesey portrait, one of her first commissions, has also been used as an illustration for children's books. Dorothy's accomplishments during her teaching years are amazing. In addition to raising four children; she served on the State Committee of the Scholastic Arts Awards, the Art Collection Committee for the Charleston Aviation Authority (Charleston International Airport), the acquisition committee of the South Carolina Arts Commission, won a PUSH Outstanding Achievement in Education award, and served on numerous other boards. And she hasn't slowed down a bit since retiring from full time teaching. She's always on the outlook for the 'found' materials she incorporates into her paintings, she looks after her young granddaughter, lends a hand for charity events and paints in her spare moments.

Perhaps the true greatness of an artist is measured by how many lives they touch, how many generations they inspire. Dorothy has done that her entire life and her paintings will continue to enrich are lives forever.

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**"Individuality of expression  
is the beginning and  
end of all art."**

**Johannes Wolfgang von Goethe**

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## SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

**February 2 - 4, 2001**

5th Annual

### **National Black Fine Art Show**

The Puck Building  
295 Lafayette Street  
SoHo, New York City

#### **Show Hours**

**Friday Noon - 9:00 PM**  
**Saturday 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM**  
**Sunday 11:00 AM - 7 PM**

Black History Month Program

### **"Everyday Heroes"**

February 8 - 23

**Don't miss our trivia contest!**

**February 24 - 25**

6th Anniversary Party

### **Just Lookin' Gallery**

Meet Artist

Mario Robinson

Noon - 8 PM

both days

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News (continued from Page 1, Column 1)

have arrived! Long successful in the limited and open edition marketplace, these are a wonderful departure for Keith. ❖ The City of North Charleston, SC is displaying twenty-seven pieces by **Dorothy Wright**. ❖ **Charly Palmer** has decided to publish two of his calendar images as open edition prints. By popular request, "Her Little Secret" will be one of them. ❖ We just brought in some great **West African Masks** including some Ashanti and Guro pieces. ❖ **George Nock** is doing a petite series of sculptures. These are a great size for those of us that can't make the space or budget commitment to larger bronzes. ❖ Let us know if you would like **E-mail updates** when new work arrives from your favorite artist. We launched this service back in July and the response has been overwhelming. ❖ **Pita Ohewerei** just sent a few new color-drenched oil paintings. Several of these are long and narrow. Great for those soaring ceilings and stairways. ❖ Hope to see you at the **5th Annual National Black Fine Art Show** February 2-4 or at Mario Robinson's show February 24 - 25. Our next DC Metro area show is the end of April. We will have dates and locations in the next issue. Until then, **Happy Collecting!**

## VISIT US ON THE WEB

[www.justlookin.com](http://www.justlookin.com)

We appreciate all your comments on our web page. It's hard to believe it has been up for almost a year. And now we are going to take it into the new millennium! Our site is being totally redesigned to be easier for you to navigate, show more of the 300-400 originals the gallery has on display and allow us to update quicker as new art arrives. We have listened to your suggestions and incorporated many of them into the new page. Visit anytime and look for the exciting changes around March 1. E-mail: [justlookin@justlookin.com](mailto:justlookin@justlookin.com)

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*"The understanding of art depends finally upon one's willingness to extend one's humanity and one's knowledge of human life."*

*Ralph Ellison*

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- ❖ Subscribe for \$15.00 per year (US only)

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