

OFF THE WALL

News & Views from JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY

Published for Ethnic Art Lovers Everywhere

Autumn 1998

'HotLanta' lived up to its name with sweltering temperatures but that didn't slow down the pace of the artists that were in Atlanta for the 5th National Black Arts Festival and sister shows at Underground Atlanta and South DeKalb Mall. All three shows featured some of our favorite artists and a few new ones to watch.



❖ We've been missing **Kenny Gatewood** and were really happy to see him back with great new watercolors of children and babies.

❖ **Gilbert Young** introduced his latest collaborative effort, "A Gift from Carl." Painted with artist **Carl Owens**, this piece pays tribute to "Little Flower" and captures the essence of womanhood in Young's inimitable style. Gilbert's last collaboration, "Lilies from Charles" sold out quickly so don't hesitate on this one. ❖ And while we're talking about Carl and Gilbert, a special thanks for throwing the ultimate party of the show. Nearly all the artists attended and I stopped counting the combined years of artistic talent when I got to 800! ❖ Attention hat lovers: **Margaret Warfield** has a serigraph coming out next year called "Exceptional Women" This color-drenched piece epitomizes the confidence and attitude of hat wearers. She has a great prepublication offer in the works. Call for details. ❖ **George Nock** has a new series of masks in handpainted resin. Inspired by his bronze sculptures, he is producing these in a variety of faces and colors. Folks have already started placing orders for Christmas presents! ❖ Finally got to see **Verna Hart's** "Harlem Series." A whole new side of Verna has emerged in this series. If you're used to the sophistication of her acclaimed jazz series, these new works will astound you. Done in an almost primitive style reminiscent of William H. Johnson, the simple brush strokes and colors embody the community spirit she knew as a child and the spirit of Harlem today. ❖ **Poncho's** small watercolors are scrumptious! We're looking forward to having them in September. ❖ Just when we think **Grace Kisa** couldn't paint even more beautiful flowers, she amazes us with new visions. ❖ **Preston Sampson**, fresh from the success of his Absolut Vodka ad, had a lot of recent jazz works we know

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Gilbert Young

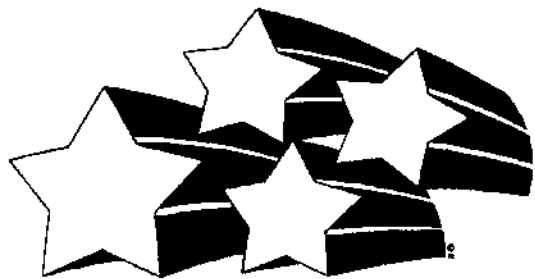
Gilbert Young is one of the greatest enigmas in the art world. Painter of one of the most enduring and widely sold prints of the last twenty years; "He Ain't Heavy", many people know his art but few know his name. Fewer still know the man behind the art or the diversity of his published pieces.

Coming of age on the streets of Cincinnati in the 1950's, a stint in the army, and a homecoming to the urban riots of the sixties all helped to shape his artistic visions. So did the University of Cincinnati, where he spent time as a student, Artist-in-Residence and twenty-six years as Conservator and Director of the Fine Arts Collection. The world started noticing his accomplishments in the 1970's, awards and commissions soon followed. It was during this time that his social consciousness began to inspire his work.

One of the best social commentators of our times, Gilbert sums up the struggle for human dignity with a sparseness that focuses us instantly on his message. One seldom needs to interpret a Young painting, he makes his point with great clarity. He paints our friends and neighbors in all their temperamental glory.

Gilbert's real skill is his adeptness at capturing the essence of personality with a few strokes of his pen or brush. This man loves people, children especially. It was no surprise when he was selected as artistic director of "Paint Pals," an international Olympic Youth Art Competition in 1996.

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Charly Palmer

We're always looking for artists that have the potential for greatness. We believe Charly most definitely has the integrity, intensity and passion for his work to rise to the top. If you haven't yet experienced his multi-media paintings, do not hesitate. Charly has a natural talent for pulling the viewer into his paintings.

As an award winning graphic designer for over fifteen years, Charly's work already appears in many private and public collections. He weaves color, symbolism, texture, fabric and quotes into layered mixed-media paintings that demand the viewer take a second glance. No matter how many times you see one of his paintings there is always something new to be discovered.

The simplicity of his watercolors belie the emotion within. Charly wants to tease us with the message in each piece but he wants us to draw our own conclusions. He starts us on the path but the final destination is up to the viewer.

We think Charly Palmer is one of the most exciting artists we've met in awhile. One look at his work and we are sure you will agree.

(Spotlight cont. from Page 1 Column 2)

Gilbert said a few years ago that he didn't think he could paint a simply pretty picture. His last two collaborative paintings "Lilies from Charles" and "A Gift from Carl," are stunning complex compositions, proving that even a social realist like Gilbert Young can find great beauty in this world.

ARTY-FACTS

Serigraphs "What Silk - What Screen ?"

Silkscreens (aka Serigraphs) are the evolution of ancient Chinese and Japanese stencil techniques. Intricate images were cut from waterproof papers. As the technique flourished in Europe in the sixteenth century, open stencils were used for wall paper, playing cards and textiles.

We don't know exactly when silk began being employed as the carrier. As early as 1907 silk-screen was being used for general commercial printing. Many decorative objects from the early part of this century; furniture, vases, lampshades and glassware were silk-screened.

Screen printing remained a commercial process until the late 1930's when the New York City WPA aided in the formation of a group to explore screen printing as a fine art technique. The curator of prints at the Philadelphia Museum of Art coined the term serigraph to help differentiate these new works from commercial screen printing. "Seri" is Latin for silk and "graph" comes from graphos, the Greek word for drawing. The 1960's saw the greatest use of the technique with artists like Andy Warhol taking it to more creative dimensions.

Serigraphy is a stencil method that uses fabric stretched on a frame to carry the ink onto the paper. These days both silk and man-made fabrics are used.

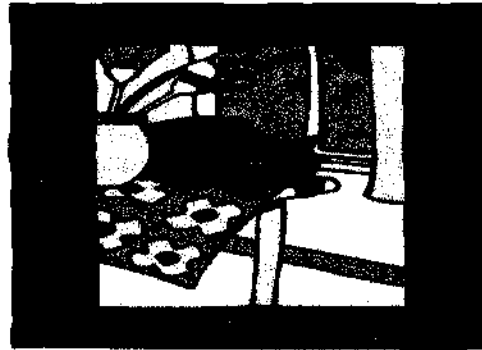
The image is created on the silk producing a stencil. Areas not to be printed are painted out so that ink will not pass through them. The ink is pushed through the screen with a squeegee. When the silk is lifted a flat skin of ink remains on the paper. Most of the time a separate screen is made for each color. These different screens are aligned (registered) and each color is squeegeed onto the paper. Each color must dry before the next is added. As many as 50 screens are used for today's fine art printing. The result is a uniform layer of pigment coating the paper. Looking at a serigraph through a magnifying loupe will often allow you to see the overlapping colors.

Serigraphs and hand-pulled lithographs provide the finest reproduction of original art. Due to the meticulous hand work involved, serigraphs are original graphic prints. There will be minor differences between each piece of an edition. The majority of serigraphs are very well priced and a great investment. This is a fine art printing technique that will last a lifetime.

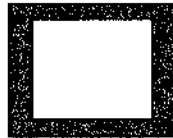
Hang UPs

Feel you don't have enough wall space for all your art? A little creative rearranging will usually yield more area. But where to start?

Really study your walls. Do your larger pieces have their own walls? Try grouping around or next to these large pieces.



Hang three similar sized pieces on one narrow wall. We all have small walls next to doorways, closets, etc. If you are single hanging pictures you are wasting valuable art space. There are many ways to creatively arrange narrow areas. In fact, neglected areas such as halls and stairways can yield lots of new hanging space. If your hall is narrow remember to use smaller pieces for greatest viewing pleasure. Stacked frames and montages of small artworks can look great climbing a stairway. Use your imagination. Themes can be composed if your art shares similar subject matter, color, medium or texture. A series of tiny watercolors or etchings look fantastic grouped in small areas and you will notice them more when they aren't "lost" on a larger wall.



Do you have a special problem area where nothing seems to work? Call Eileen and we will help you find solutions. Any that we feature in this column will win a \$50.00 gift certificate and a personal visit to help you arrange your art.

"A Brush of Culture"

Get a few friends together and enjoy the latest art in the comfort of your home. We can turn your home into a jazz gallery, show only originals, or bring all types of ethnic art.

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

Just Lookin' provides invitations, promotionals, door prizes and a great host or hostess incentive package. Call for information.

Home Art Parties

"Art leads to a more profound concept of life because art itself is a profound expression of feeling."

Hans Hofmann

Fall Framing Forecast

So many of us turn our thoughts to home after labor day. And this is the season when lots of new frame samples arrive at the gallery. In case you thought 3,000 frames were more than enough, drop by and take a look at the 300 we just added.

Metallics are a definite trend for fall and the new frames mix color and texture like never before.

Copper, bronze and great greens are coming on strong in both contemporary and traditional shapes. We just received a series that will remind you of Monet paintings. They look great on abstracts.

Antique golds with color-brushed patinas are showing up in lots of modern contours. And for those that love large carved frames, the new ones are works of art!

Let's design a frame together soon.

Buyer Beware !!!

Shows & Special Events

September 12 - 30 **Annual Preseason Xmas Sale**
Great savings on Calendars, Boxed Cards, Figurines & Tiles

Arts and Humanities Month Feature Show *Meet award winning artist*

James Denmark

October 16 - October 18

Friday Oct. 16 Collectors Private Reception

Saturday Oct. 17 **Just Lookin' Gallery**

1 Pm to 8 Pm

Sunday Oct. 18 **Bethesda Ramada Hotel**

Saturday & Sunday

Noon to 7 Pm

Shows open to the public.

8400 Wisconsin Avenue

Join us!

Bethesda, MD

November 22- Noon to 8 Pm
Fall for the Arts with Just Lookin'
Bethesda Ramada Hotel

Join us for the latest originals and unique pieces
including pottery & masks

(Date tentative. Call for details.)

Many of us have gotten caught up in buying canvas and print copies of famous African - American works of art. Sold primarily through home shows, these copies are done without the artist's consent or compensation. Our industry has been fighting this for years and a large publishing company is currently suing one of the companies for copyright infringement.

How can you avoid buying fakes? Ask lots of questions. Buy from a reputable dealer. Always learn as much as you can about the artists. It is their reputation that makes a piece of art increase in value. Find out about the medium of the piece. Any certificate of authenticity should contain the title of the art, artist's name, the size of the edition and any other information that is available. This information is often needed by insurance companies.

Please follow these tips and help us preserve the integrity of ethnic art today and for the future.

(Editor's note: This originally ran in the Summer 1997 issue. It is repeated by popular request.)

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you're going to love. ❖ **Katherine Kisa** sold out her Musical Heritage series of paintings at the show! Looks like it's going to be September before we get more and we already have a waiting list. ❖ If you love detail and African themes - do not miss **James Ayers** work. He has turned his African adventures into richly colored kinetic energy on canvas. ❖ **Rosalind McGary Lightner** had lots of new 'paint-beaded' ladies with attitude. I'm still amazed at the hours of painstaking work she puts into them. ❖ **Albert Fennell** has a new couples limited edition, "Sweet Nothings," that is sure to sell out quickly. ❖ **Rondell** had one of the most popular booths at the festival. They had to replenish the walls with their distinctive fiber art daily. ❖ **Dane Tilghman's** watercolors are vibrant reminders of everyday life. His golf and baseball pieces will tickle the fancy of the sportsmen in your life. ❖ **John Sims** has a great mixed media series called "Sisters in Dance."

These use a myriad of colorful fabrics to add texture and motion. ❖ To say that **Eli Kince's** new work is his best ever is a serious understatement. I've always loved his work and his latest pieces are infused with a new energy. ❖ For the lovers of impressionism among us, **Deborah Shedrick's** new paintings are strokes of harmonic color. ❖ **Roederick Vines** had one of the most intoxicating paintings at the show "The Consummation." I'm glad it sold quickly so I didn't get in trouble. ❖ **Maurice Evans** has taken his jazz visions and extended them to pool shooting. Great new works! ❖ Pottery has never reached out and touched me the way the Raku works of **James Few** did. His African and Egyptian inspired designs elevate ethnic pottery to fine art. ❖ The hits keep happening for **Michael Brown**. His third bronze sculpture, "Wrapsody," will be cast this month. And he was commissioned to produce the official poster for the Atlanta Million Youth Movement. Until next time - Happy Collecting !