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Woodcutting, portrait artist presents his 'social commentary works at Bennett

BY SAMANTHA MOREY
Staff Reporter

The Visual Arts and Humane Studies Department and the Lyceum Committee sponsored a slide exhibition in the Pfeiffer Science Auditorium March 22.

The exhibition, "Personal Impressions: The Art of Thom Shaw," featured Thom Shaw, a woodcutting and portrait artist and a slide presentation of his works.

Shaw a Cincinnati, native has invented an art style coined "iconography" which Shaw said fuses social commentary with ideas from predominately urban aesthetic.

During his presentation, Shaw discussed his three theme pieces titled "Urban Medals" (various

woodcutting of young gang members showing off their battle scars as if they were medals.); "Personal Issues" (Shaw's black and white self-portrait prints featuring him in various stages of his life); and "The Malcolm X Paradox" (Shaw's woodcut relief print features the "X" woodcuts in black and white on victims and assailants of urban violence).

Shaw's woodcuts and portraits are aimed at exposing the cruelty of domestic and urban violence and although some of his pieces are censored from display for being too vulgar or offensive. Shaw said he will not alter his art style and hopes one day, "all his pieces will be displayed because censorship causes for youth to see a

homogenized version of art."

"Each woodcut's theme features an icon that symbolizes a broader message to his audience," Shaw said.

Dr. Alma Adams, Visual Arts Department chair said that much of Shaw's work may be painful to look at. "His work, which deals with social commentary — issues of violence and crime on children, women, and families — is real," Adams said.

"It is critical for artists to deal with social problem through the imaginary in their work. Artists have a responsibility to address such problems through their work which causes the audience, or the community to confront the prob-

lem or address the," Adams said.

Shaw, a man who turned his childhood hobby into a career, said he considers himself an artist-entrepreneur. He has collectively more than 3,500 pieces of art.

Even with the ability to showcase, sell, and teach his work, "Making this form of art more recognized to African Americans is going to take a while or a least until black folks become less utilitarian and more appreciative of art," Shaw said. However, he said he plans to present his art to the black community through site specific murals.

Shaw's work will be on display at the African American Atelier Art Gallery through May 14.

BENNETT COLLEGE

Music Department
Presents:



Dorthea Taylor

Soprano

Senior Recital

Friday, April 23rd

at

7:00 PM

Bennett College
Annie Merner Pfeiffer
Chapel

Scott Continued from Page 1

Banner: What do you think about the progress of the Capital Campaign so far?

Scott: I think we done well so far. This is the first Capital Campaign the College has done in 25 years. So far, we've reached 25.4 percent of our goal, with \$12.7 million in pledges and gifts. We've got a way to go, but these results are pretty good.

Banner: What can the Bennett students do to become more involved in the progress of Bennett College?

Scott: There are numerous things. For one, students should get everything they can get from the Bennett experience -- go to workshops, ask questions, vow to be good stu-

dents. Get more from your faculty and staff. Use them to your full advantage. That's what they're here for. Use more of your own creative brain power to solve problems. Don't be comfortable with other's making decisions for you. Finally, I want you to remember, if you don't use it, you lose it.

Banner: Is there any particular message you would like to give to the student body as the end of this academic year approaches?

Scott: It is time to get empowered -- to take our raw material mentioned and use it [the raw material] for empowerment. We need to focus beyond all the negative aspects of life and feel good about ourselves. That is the only way we're going succeed.

The Bennett College Reader's Theater

Presents A Spring Recital



"Kitchen Talk"

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written by Dr. Linda Beatrice Brown

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Place: Little Theater

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