

Entertainment

Annual Black Invitational Arts Exhibit Promotes Cultural Awareness

Beginning on February 11, a unique art exhibition will open in the Milton Rhodes Gallery of the Sawtooth Building in downtown Winston-Salem. This exhibition is special in that it provides a forum for a group of individuals that has long been neglected in the art world - African American visual artists. James A. Porter, the black artist and art historian, wrote in 1950 that exhibit space for black artists was usually limited to "the churches, the vestibules and reading rooms of public libraries, and YMCA buildings, or the classrooms of public school buildings. Many feel things have not changed much for the black artist of today. The Fourth Annual Black Invitational is a step toward change and recognition.

The Arts Council has, over the past three years, tried to rectify the lack of support given to black artists by presenting the Third Black Invitational Exhibition. Now in its fourth year, the Annual Black Invitational art exhibition continues to promote

greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of the visual arts and contributions made by local African American artists. The individuals represented in this exhibition exemplify our community's most talented visual artists and important voices speaking out about the black experience.

This week, I will begin a two-part series introducing you to the artists participating in this year's Third Black Invitational Exhibition. All the artists involved are now living and working in the area. The works of these individuals cover a wide spectrum of interests, experience and talents - but all speak to the black experience. Their work can, if given the chance, provides us with insight into our common experiences. It is time the black community begins to take an active interest in the images not of our own making.

The artists...
Vandero Hinnant has been a member of the faculty with the Cen-

ter for Creative Arts in Greensboro, the Graduate Studies and Assistantship Program at the Weatherspoon Art Gallery at UNC - Greensboro, and the Artists in School Program in Greensboro. An active guest lecturer and consultant, Mr. Hinnant has also worked with Werner Graphics in New York City. Mr. Hinnant's work has been shown widely in North Carolina and Virginia and can be found in public and private collections around the nation. His works are abstract and provide an introduction to this type of work. Using geometry, color and sometimes words and ideas, Mr. Hinnant combines many diverse elements to capture the attention of people that generally find no interest in abstractions.

As a master print-maker, Roland Watts is an important creative force in this community. Roland Watts received an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and participated in further studies at A&T University. He also received a

Master of Science in Arts Education and a BS in Vocational and Industrial Education from A&T University. Presently, Mr. Watts is the Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Winston-Salem State University and serves on the Board of Directors of Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc. Mr. Watts has exhibited extensively in one-man and group shows.

Paul Roseboro, a native of W-S and graduate of N.C. A&T State University presents a style of super realism that is heavily influenced by old masters. Since graduating, Roseboro has shown his work in numerous exhibitions and has shown some of his drawing and portraits on television talk shows.

Barbara Collins-Eure works in a variety of mediums including low relief wood carving, batik, print making, pottery, as well as the vibrant painting of silk scarves. She is versatil in producing what ever is required for a particular setting. Harmony is created by using subdued colors and

strong rhythmic patterns. Born in Eastville, Virginia, Ms. Eure studied with Jim Moon in Bassano Del Grappa, Italy in 1984 and graduated

Ed "Halesie" Hale is well known artist in this area. As a black artists Halesie states, "I find that my most emotional and demanding

ARTS REACH



By REGGIE JOHNSON

from the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore where she earned a B.S. degree in art education.

Marvette Pratt Aldrich's works have been shown extensively in the Traid. She feels that, as an African American, subject matter is a prime directive. Using strong color and variations of pattern, texture and design in her painting, Ms. Aldrich creates representational works with an experimental edge.

works are those of the black experience. The most exciting aspect of being a visual artist is to communicate experiences and emotions through imagery. It is my intent that my art work create a bond with the observer that will be compelling for more than a fleeting moment.

Continued next week...
Reggie Johnson is Vice President Community Outreach, The Arts Council of W-S and Forsyth County.

Simple Justice: Airs

Simple Justice, a two and a half hour drama filmed on location in Wilmington as part of the award-winning PBS series *The American Experience*, airs Monday, Jan. 18 at 9 p.m.

The dramatic fight for civil rights in the U.S. is well documented. Less well-known are efforts of a courageous group of African American lawyers who diligently fought segregation in the wake of the Plessy vs. Ferguson decision establishing the "separate but equal" concept in America.

The drama opens at Howard University Law School where Dean Charles Hamilton Houston begins his 20-year quest for racial equality

by sending a team of new lawyers on a mission to overturn the Plessy decision.

Using compelling courtroom scenes to recreate the atmosphere of tension and prejudice prevalent in the 1940s and 50s, *Simple Justice* follows these lawyers, including future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, as they work ceaselessly fighting segregation in small courts around the nation.

Based on Richard Kluger's 1975 book of the same name, *Simple Justice* is a departure from the strict documentary format normally presented by the American Experience.



(Top left) Giancarlo Esposito stars as Dr. Kenneth Clark in *Simple Justice*, an *American Experience* presentation about the legal struggles of "Brown v. Board of Education."

Action-Packed Thriller Premieres

On NBC



Bill Dee Williams and Powers Boothe star in "Marked for Murder," premiering Sunday, Jan. 17 at 9 p.m. on NBC.

"Marked for Murder" (formerly titled "The Sandman"), an action-packed thriller starring Emmy winner Powers Boothe ("Guyana Tragedy: The Jim Jones Story") and Emmy nominee Billy Dee Williams ("Bronx Song," "Batman"), will premiere Sunday, Jan. 17, at 9 p.m. on NBC. Laura Johnson ("Falcon Crest") also stars in an innovative program designed by the Justice Department, co-creator Mace Moutron. Boothe is taken out of prison, trained and given a job with the Philadelphia police department to help them in their fight against crime. Under the watchful eye of a tough police captain Williams, and the Justice Department administrator (Johnson) whose program's survival is riding on Mace's success, the hard-as-nails convict must adjust to life on the streets - from the right side of the law.

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