

The art of Aaron Douglas comes to Winston-Salem

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc. presents The Art of Aaron Douglas: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond. This 24-piece collection will exhibit at the Milton Rhodes Gallery in the Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall Street in downtown Winston-Salem, from Jan. 12 until March 17.

Four of Douglas' works, two oil paintings and two etchings, were included in the organization's first exhibition in 1972. The pieces are assembled from university and private collections across the country.

Douglas, the most prominent artist of the Harlem Renaissance, is known as the Father of Black Art in America. This is the first solo exhibition of his work in this area. This project received support from the N.C. Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Douglas was born in Topeka, Kan., in 1899. His formal education includes graduation from the University of Nebraska Fine Arts Department and an MFA degree from Columbia University in New York. Douglas' first mural was completed in 1927 at Club Ebony. The commission was followed by

others, for the Fisk University library murals in 1930, the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, the College Inn, Bennett College (Greensboro), the Countee Cullen Branch of the New York Public Library and the 135th Street YMCA. He received a scholarship to study for two years with artist Winold Reiss, a fellowship for a year's study at the Barnes Foundation, a Rosenthal Foundation travel fellowship to the American South and Haiti. He studied for a year in Paris, where he met the famed artist Henry O. Tanner.

In 1925, after graduation from Columbia, Douglas left his teaching job in New York and became involved in the "New Negro" movement, the precursor of the Harlem Renaissance. At the end of World War I and the mass migration of Negroes from the agricultural South to the industrial North, this movement developed in the mid-1920s among Negro writers, artists and intellectuals.

As Mr. Douglas described it: "There arose a vast self-consciousness which eventually became a new voice extending through and beyond the Negroes' plea for rights and privileges to a recognition of his deep need for creation and, finally, a right to freely participate in our national task of creating an art truly representative of

and spiritually worthy of the struggles, the triumphs and the defeats of all American people regardless of faith, race or region."

Douglas created images for many books, including Claude McKay's "Banana Bottom," "Banjo" and "Home to Harlem"; and Alain Locke's "The New Negro." Other magazines illustrated were Fire! and Theater Arts Monthly.

In 1940, Fisk University asked Douglas to organize art classes and create a major in art for the university. From 1944 until his retirement in 1966, he was a full-time faculty member at Fisk as an artist, educator and chairman of the art department. He also exhibited in solo and group shows. Douglas died in Nashville in 1979.

Events for this exhibition include an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 12, from 5:30 to 7, with a video, "A Thing of Beauty." This video is about Douglas' restoration of the murals he painted at Fisk University in 1930-31 and will be shown at 6 p.m. Other related programs include Dr. Gladys Forde, professor emerita of English, speech and theater, Fisk University, with readings from the work of writers active in the Harlem Renaissance with Aaron Douglas, and presenting a



Aaron Douglas, woodcut, "The Emperor Jones Series": "Bravado," "Defiance," "Flight," "Surrender."

film in which she interviewed him. This program will be on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m.

On Saturday, March 3, at 3 p.m., there will be a theatrical presentation of narration, mime and movement. "Back to Creation" was created by Flonnie Anderson, retired English and drama teacher

with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. She also directs the presentation, based on James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse," which Douglas illustrated.

All programs will be at the Milton Rhodes Gallery in the Sawtooth Building. Exhibition hours will be from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. All events are open to the public with no admission. For more information, call the Delta Arts Center, 1511 E. Third Street, at 722-2625. The center is open from noon until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Adoption

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ing (adoption) for a while," she said. The campaign will also be aimed at knocking down some of the myths that DSS believes keeps many people from pursuing adoption.

"You can be single... You do not have to be a stay at home parent... You do not have to own a home," Delafield said, listing a few of the most common myths.

A family also does not have to be rich either. A steady source of income is the only thing that is required. Prospective adoptive parents are required to go through a 30-hour training.

Brenda Ball said she and her husband are proof that adoptive parents do not have to have a whole lot of money to adopt. The couple have adopted seven children over

the last 14 years, after raising their own children. The Balls have also served as foster parents to several children.

Ball says adoption not only benefits children, but also the families that take them in.

"I could not imagine my life and what I would have missed in the last 13 to 14 years if I had not had all these kids come into my life. I am glad to play a small role in helping them be what they are going to be in this world," said Ball.

Eugene, the Balls' oldest adopted son, will be featured in the ad campaign. He said he wants to show people the effect loving adoptive parents can have on children.

"My life before I was adopted was a bad time. I had to learn how to cope with moving around a whole lot," Eugene said.

Eugene and Letrice, another adopted child that will be featured

in the campaign, are teen-agers. DSS says older kids have the hardest time being adopted.

Letrica has been with her family for more than a decade. She hopes her story will help others find the happiness she has experienced with her family.

"I think everyone needs to find a place where they belong and where they are loved," she said.

Both Eugene and Letrice say they want to adopt children of their own one day.

Delafield wants the ad campaign to also show that kids waiting to be adopted are just like any other kids. Often, she said, there is a negative perception of kids waiting to be adopted. But the children, she added, did nothing themselves to be placed in on an adoption waiting list.

"These are good kids. They have the same types of hopes and dreams as all kids," she said.

NAACP

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improve the car safety awareness of families across America," said UAW Vice President Richard Shoemaker. "Helping high risk families to better protect their children, in partnership with GM, NCLR and the NAACP, is a wonderful way to demonstrate our concern for the community."

Jim Hall, chairman of the NTSB, presented the award to Harry Pearce, vice chairman of General Motors, to commemorate the 100,000th car seat safety check under the SKBU program. The

program includes the use of 51 specially equipped Chevrolet Venture vans, which bring the lifesaving message directly to families in their communities, along with information about properly restraining children in child safety seats. The program also provides hands-on assistance to families and free car seats to families in need.

"As the first automaker to get involved in car seat check-ups on a national basis, General Motors is proud of its partnership with the NAACP, the UAW, and SAFE KIDS and our contribution to child passenger safety," said

Pearce. "One hundred thousand seats checked is an impressive number, but it's just the beginning and I'll only be satisfied when every seat has been checked. This is an extremely important venture and it takes all of the partners to ensure that we reach every community."

If you would like to learn more about General Motors' safety initiatives visit www.gm.com. To find a check-up event near you or to obtain a free copy of a car seat safety brochure, call the National SAFE KIDS Campaign at 800-441-1888 or visit www.safekids.org.

Microsoft

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suit of the so-called hard sciences.

"Bill and Melinda Gates both believe that higher education opens doors to opportunities," said foundation spokeswoman Carol Rava.

They, and their company, feel their programs for women and minorities will help expand the pool of qualified prospective employees.

Microsoft spokesman Matt Pilla

characterized the programs as an investment.

"We are partnering with the right organizations and the right schools to ensure there is an interest and ability to join the work force," he said.

Corporations have money and access to the media, which gives them a responsibility to help nonprofit organizations, said Ayoka Blandford, a spokeswoman for the National Society of Black Engineers, which Microsoft supports.

But children need education to use, understand and benefit from equipment and cash donated to low-income schools, said Anita Brown, founder and CEO of the nonprofit Black Geeks Online, based in Washington, D.C.

Brown is not impressed by every corporate donation.

"Some of it was true social philanthropy," she said. "A lot of it was upgrading and dumping their old stuff in the schools to make themselves feel good."

Bass

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gy," Bass said. "Those programs are currently in business. I'm thinking now of establishing another one (at Winston-Salem State)..."

"I'm chairman of the board of directors at Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. I have endowed some scholarship programs at Voorhees College," Bass said.

He has been involved in a long list of other civic activities, including serving on numerous boards, commissions and organizations at the local, state and national levels.

He is the president of Marshall B. Bass & Associates, a management consultant firm.

Bass retired as an elected senior vice president from RJR Nabisco in 1991. A retired U.S. Army officer, Bass served 23 years in the military before joining RJR Nabisco. He is a veteran of World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars; commanded the northern-

most battalion combat team in the demilitarized zone in Korea during 1966 and 1967; and completed tours of service on four continents. His last military post in the service

was at the Pentagon as chief of worldwide army promotions. He received a number of decorations and awards, including the Purple Heart and Legion of Merit.

N.C. Association of Senior Citizens Clubs District V elects officers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Members of District V of Winston-Salem, of the N.C. Association of Senior Citizens Clubs, met at the Rupert Bell Center and elected officers for 2001.

The officers are: Robert W. Long, chairman; Ruth F. Brock, vice chairman; Mary Pearson, recording secretary; Georgia Davis, assistant secretary; Tommy Wright, treasurer; Belma Dobson, assistant treasurer.



Long

Mary Britt, director of Rupert Bell Center, is adviser. District V meets the fourth Thursday each month at Rupert Bell Center at 2:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

There are 13 clubs in District V. All are invited to attend the meeting. Your input is needed.

The officers are: Robert W.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
Stewart Bail Bonding

At just 23 years of age, Selester Stewart, Jr. has much to be proud of. His long list of accomplishments includes graduating from North Carolina Central University with honors. He obtained a bachelors of science degree in criminal justice and is currently working on a Masters Degree in sociology at UNCG. In addition to that, Selester has donated numerous hours of his time to helping our youth.

When Selester considered his career options, he knew he wanted to do something that would give him the opportunity to do what he enjoys most; serving the community. Bail bonding fulfilled that desire. When Selester established Stewart Bail Bonding two years ago, he knew that it would be not only economically rewarding, but personally enriching as well. Through his work, he is able to reach out to many people that are in need of direction. Most of his clients are first time offenders. They are charged with misdemeanors for which they have not yet been tried for or convicted of.

Selester, a devout Christian, realizes that all some people need is a little encouragement and a push in the right direction. He enjoys being able to give

his clients advice that will help them avoid future run-ins with the law. He frequently informs people of social organizations that provide services that they may be able to take advantage of; services that will give them the opportunity to maintain themselves, their jobs and hold their families intact.

In addition to his work, Selester regularly visits Hill Middle School, where he speaks with young people about what he says are "real issues that teachers may not be in tune with." Selester finds reward in serving as a role model for children. "Put the burden on my shoulder. I will carry the load," he said. He participated in the National Youth Sports Program run by the athletic department at WSSU while studying for his bachelor's degree. Recently, he donated several bikes to the program. The bikes were presented to youth at an awards banquet.

If all of this isn't enough, Stewart Bail Bonding plans to open a High Point office soon to serve the Guilford County community. Should you find yourself in need, you can feel comfortable contacting Stewart Bail Bonding where serving you is their top priority.

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