

Diggs to feature Brazilian dance



An exhibit on African hairstyles and Brazilian dances is staged for the Diggs Gallery this month.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University's Diggs Gallery grand opening of an African hair exhibition on Friday, Sept. 28, at 6 p.m. will be followed by a Brazilian dance performance by Eluza Santos at 7 p.m. in the Banquet Hall of the Albert H. Anderson Conference Center.

The exhibition titled Hair in African Art and Culture brings together more than 170 objects



from 100 ethnic groups spanning 25 African countries. It includes masks, figures, combs, hairpins, beads, headrests and an actual Ghanaian barbershop to illustrate the significance of hair within African society.

Santos, an assistant professor of modern dance at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, is a native of Brazil, where she received her undergraduate degree in physical education.

See Diggs on A9

Delta Arts to feature pottery work of S.C. couple starting Saturday

The Eugenes were once hog farmers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

When Winton Eugene was having difficulty as a hog farmer, his wife, Rosa, decided to direct his energy toward art. As a Christmas present, she gave him several books on pottery, beginning a successful artistic collaboration that has led to membership in the African American Design Archive of the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum.

Since 1986 Winton and Rosa Eugene, husband and wife artisans, have successfully developed a unique line of functional and decorative stoneware. Winton Eugene is a self-taught potter with no formal education in art. In the early '80s, he watched as his children worked with clay on projects at school and thought that this was something that he would like to do. Rosa Eugene, a nurse by trade, watched her husband's pottery interest grow and bought him some books on the topic as a gift to occupy his time and ease his hog-raising troubles.

Soon thereafter, Winton purchased a potter's wheel and taught himself how to turn. Within six months, the couple's garage was filled with unglazed pottery. When Winton experienced difficulty in making glaze stick to the clay, he enlisted his wife's help. Ever since, the two have been collaborating on the family business. Three years after Winton started throwing clay, Rosa quit her nursing job. Initially, Rosa applied the glazes and organized their business affairs, but today she enjoys creating stoneware pottery along with Winton in their studio in Cowpens, S.C.

The Eugenes produce traditional forms such as jars, pitchers, bowls and vases; however, the designs that they carve into and/or paint onto the surface of

the pots are the focal point of their art. Each individual piece carries a message about the cherished heritage from which these two artists have come. Whether reflecting on the past or exploring a concept such as dignity and pride, their works cause the viewer to be captured by the artists' remarkable ability to speak through the clay medium. Their works evoke imagery and memories from a past shared by African Americans and Caucasians alike.

Their messages reveal a universal ancestry of man.

Their work has been featured in museums and art galleries across the state and as far away as China. Often art professors or trained artisans ask from where they received their art degrees or formal instruction. Rosa tells them, "We got our degrees from the University of Jesus Christ. We really don't fit into a category." Everything they know about pottery and their work, they have learned through reading and experience.

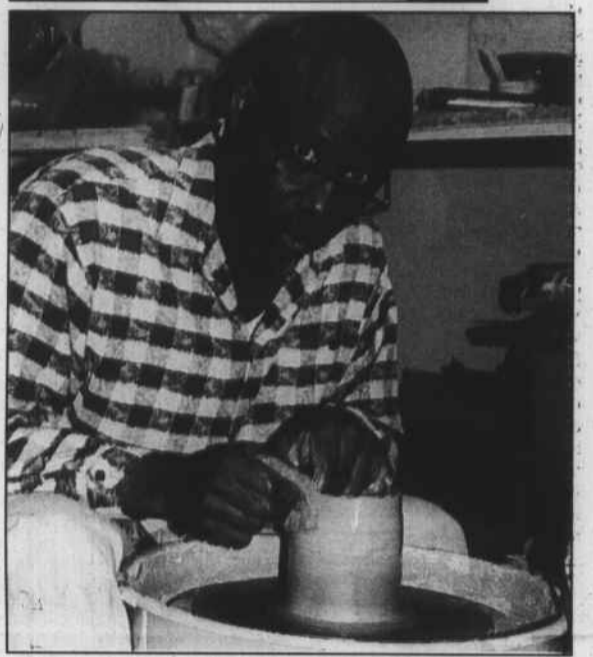
Winton says that pottery came late in his life. "Art has always been with me and influenced by my grade school and high school teachers." He practiced his art by decorating and designing school billboards, prom sets and anything else that needed to be drawn. In addition to their pots, the exhibition will include drawings, paintings and some of Winton's sketchbooks.

On display in the main gallery of the Delta Arts Center will be 17 show pieces as well as functional and decorative stoneware for sale.

The works of clay by Rosa and Winton Eugene will be on display from Sept. 22 through Nov. 17. The opening reception will be Saturday, Sept. 22, from 3-5 p.m.



Rosa and Winton Eugene work their magic. Their work has been featured in galleries throughout the land.



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