

## Diggs Gallery celebrates 20 years with 'Pride and Dignity' exhibit

**James Jackson**  
ARGUS CONTRIBUTOR

Diggs Gallery celebrated its 20th anniversary Oct. 15.

Since Diggs Gallery opened its doors to the public in 1990, it has served as a platform for African-American art and history in Winston-Salem.

Oct. 2 marked the Gallery's true 20th anniversary, but had the celebration Oct. 15 that featured poetry, live music, and a journey through time documenting some of the highlights from the Gallery's previous years.

Part of the presentation centered on the exhibit *Pride and Dignity from the Hill*, which chronicles the rich history of Winston-Salem's oldest African-American community.

Ten years ago, when Belinda Tate took over as director for Diggs Gallery, about 500 students visited each year.

Last year, about 3,500 students visited the Gallery. Tate said that the huge jump seems to be a combination of the younger generation's broadening interests and the incorporation of more exhibits that students can relate to.

One change Tate pointed to was how, in the past, students had very

little interest in being associated with anything outside their major. Now, she says there are students from all different majors involved.

She talked about the need to leverage technology "without taking away from the educational experience associated with viewing artwork."

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James Funches, a local artist and musician, understands this concept all too well. Funches, who has taught art and music in Winston-Salem, performed at the celebration.

He has been performing since high school and has gained notoriety for playing the saxophone.

After graduating from WSSU with a degree in Music Education and a minor in Art, Funches sharpened his skills as an artist, and found his niche in wire sculpting, which he learned from the famous Hayward Oubre.

Funches has been associated with Diggs Gallery since the early 90s.

"I'm excited about the role the gallery plays in the rising diversity in the art community, something that was not present when I first started," Funches said.

He has a few pieces in the "Pride and Dignity from the Hill" exhibit, as well as one that is titled after him, created by his mentee Gregory Kimble.



Photo by Jarrett Dawkins Chief Photographer

Art displayed as part of "Pride and Dignity from the Hill" exhibit in Diggs Gallery. The exhibit is also part of the 20th anniversary celebration.

In past years, Tate said that this community needed the art to be brought to them.

Tate said she is working on ways to incorporate changing technology into exhibits.

Tate said, "Mentioning that just because you see a picture of a great piece of art, it's simply not the same as seeing the art in person."

There is a certain appreciation that comes with experiencing art in per-

## WSSU marching band to play 'The Star-Spangled Banner' for NASCAR Cup race

The Red Sea of Sound, Winston-Salem State's marching band, will play the national anthem for the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at the Martinsville Speedway, Oct. 24.

The band will give a performance march around the track and then play the anthem, which will be shown live on ESPN at 1:01 p.m.

The performance is an outgrowth of the relationship between NASCAR, Martinsville Speedway and the University's Motorsport Management program.

In addition to the band's participation in Sunday's race, all of the Motorsport Management students will be there working with the track facility operations.

Mike Smith, public relations director for Martinsville Speedway, said that NASCAR was excited to have the WSSU band perform at the race.

"Several of them had seen a performance in the past and they went on and on about how good it was."

WSSU is the only four-year university in the country and the only HBCU to offer a Bachelor of Science degree program in Motorsport Management.

The program provides hands-on experience throughout the curriculum that prepares students for entry-level positions in motorsport operations, motorsport marketing and event planning.

WSSU Public Relations



## ENTERTAINING CRITICISM

### Folk artist rocks The Garage

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Angie Mattson performed songs from her new album "Skeleton Arm" at The Garage in downtown Winston-Salem Oct. 12, in a small but intimate performance.

Mattson's newest album "Skeleton Arm" was released earlier this year receiving much acclaim from critics. After seeing her in person it's no wonder why; she is unbelievable. There may have been very few fans in the crowd, but with her amazing voice it felt as though she was singing to you directly. Her sultry voice leaves you feeling as though you're in a smoky jazz club one minute and then a folk festival the next.

Her sound is similar to that of Florence and the Machine; who rocked out the MTV Video Music Awards last month, Fiona Apple and Jewel. Music that is very folksy with just enough rock and roll to shake things up nicely.

Stormy vocals sway from disarmingly intimate to innocent and elevated as she displays her powerful vocal range. Dueling guitars, haunting background vocals, and fierce drums as well as harmonica, bells,

tambourine and chains complete this uniquely crafted album.

Mattson takes most of her inspiration from relationships but not always her own.

"The songs are mostly about relationships past and present, my heart and body seem to control everything I do, and my mind cleans up the mess" said Mattson.

The band is composed of Angie Mattson and her guitarist Jeff Mendel. The rest of the band are heard from a recording that is played while the two of them perform songs from her newest album.

"The rest of the band is trapped inside the box," laughed Mattson.

Written by Mattson herself and produced with Jeff Mendel on Mattson's own label "Radio Nine Records" at The Violet Room in Los Angeles, Ca., the album has only seven songs and runs less than 35 minutes.

"I like to keep my songs short" Mattson said "people have a short attention span and they're only going to download the songs that they like."

Mattson chose songs for the album that everyone loved, keeping "Skeleton Arm" short and sweet. For anyone open to new music, it's definitely worth checking out.