

Africana Art Center:

Children Express Themselves With a Little Help From Their Friends

By Abigail Warren

When did you learn to cut with scissors? — probably before you were four, but four girls from Meredith are teaching five-year olds just how it is done.

Peggy Williams, Claudia Gore, Judy Eddins and Carolyn Wheeler have been teaching this and many other fundamentals of Art at the new Africana Art Gallery.

Warehouse Gallery

The gallery, an old warehouse on West Hargett Street, holds displays of art works of Negroes and allows space for art and dancing studios for children.

The girls teach children from the different day-care centers in Raleigh and some children from the South Side area.

Judy Eddins explained that they were trying to expose the children to different areas of art.

Peggy added that the children all like to get to sit down and create without being bothered.

The children are learning to work with more different kinds of materials than they could at home or even at the day-care centers.

Main Achievement

One of the main achievements the girls have seen is the children's growing self-confidence in their work. The work is displayed in the room and taken home, too.

"We send notes to the parents sometimes," said Claudia, "and explain that they shouldn't ask 'What is it,' but rather, 'Tell me what you have done'."

The girls avoid hampering the creativeness of the children by having them draw something that looks like something. Even the people who run the gallery didn't seem to understand the need at first, judging by their side glances, mentioned the girls.

Texture—Best Lesson

Texture was one of the best lessons they have had, the girls agree.

The children felt objects, some from the Blind Gallery of the Art Museum, and talked about what they felt.

The classes are planned, but not too far in advance because they have to be flexible with the children's schedule, the heating system and the plumbing system.

"I think what we taught them is good," said Claudia.

All of the girls feel this way, and obviously they enjoy their work.

"Look, Teacher"

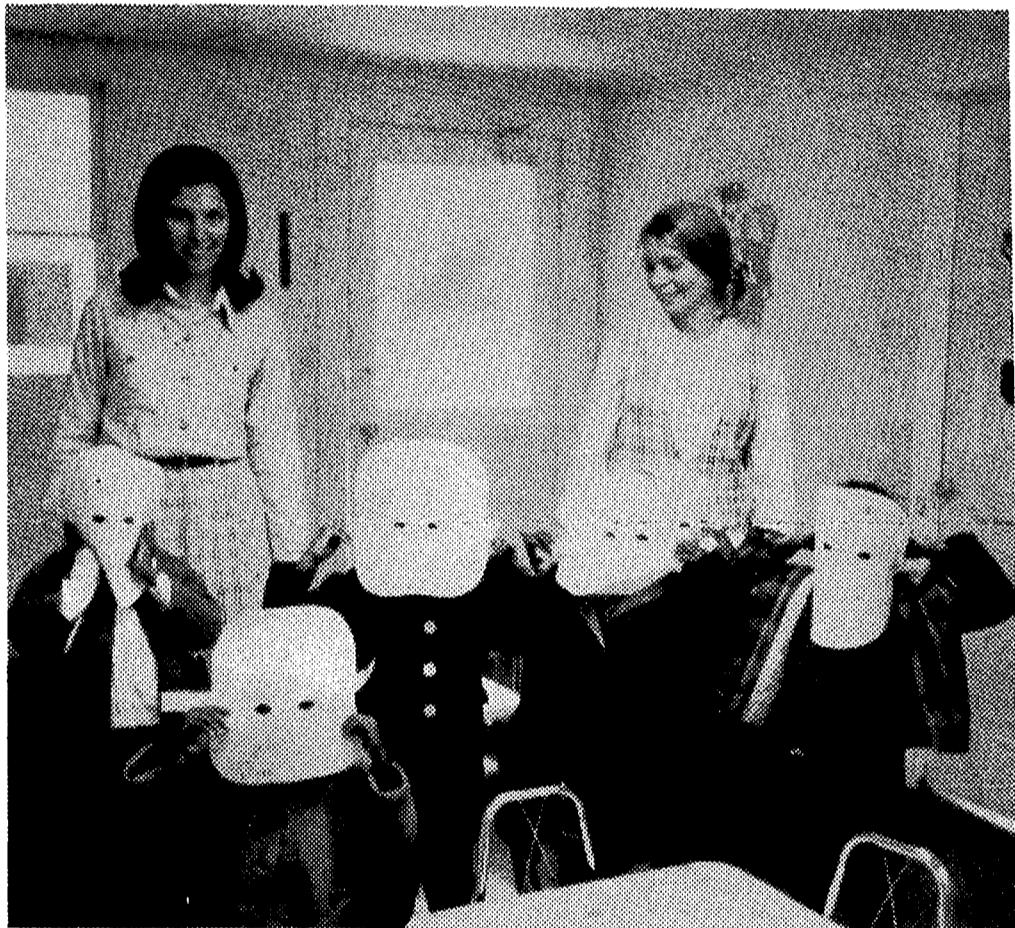
"Look, teacher," from one of the children, gives them a special feeling that can't be replaced, they say.

If You Want to Help . . .

Next semester, their positions will be vacant. The girls have to student teach and they need help. If you want to work with these children (it's good preparation for student teaching) contact any one of the girls, or Mr. Leonard White in the Art Department. They stress that you do not have to be an art major to work. It's a wonderful chance to do worthwhile work.



Peggy Williams (left) and Claudia Gore give youngsters some pointers on making masks.



Claudia Gore and Peggy Williams pose with their young masked artists.

Cochran Publishes Two Book Reviews

Dr. Bernard Cochran, religion professor here, has recently completed two book reviews for publication in theological journals.

His review of Gustave Todrank's *The Secular Search for a New Christ* will be included in the *Encounter Journal*. The book, Dr. Cochran explains, is an "espousal" of the death of Jesus theology.

A second review will appear in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* in which Dr. Cochran discusses Michael Novaks', *A Theology for Radical Politics*. According to Dr. Cochran, this Roman Catholic theologian is involved in the church and the world in terms of radical injustice and the peace movement and proves to be an able and interesting writer.

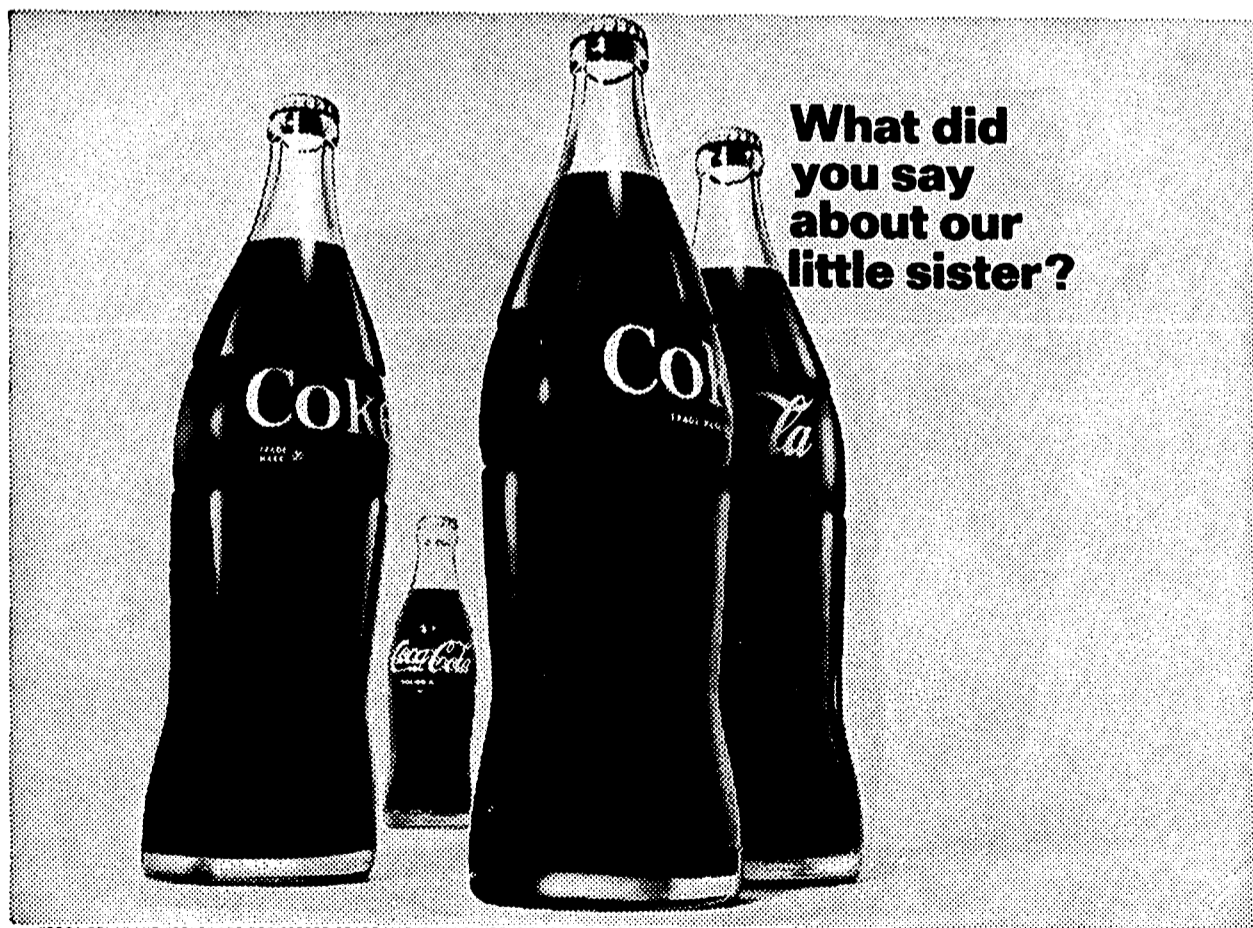
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