

Artist carving African history

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Lamidi Olonade Fakeye didn't choose his profession. It chose him.

Though he comes from a long line of woodcarvers, five generations in fact, Fakeye shuffled around from job to job in his native Nigeria before throwing himself into the profession that would make him and his work internationally renowned.

"I was a bike carrier, lumberjack, barber...." Fakeye recalled last week.

Fakeye credits a British priest with reawakening his woodcarving legacy that lived inside him. The priest noticed Fakeye's great potential while he was enrolled in a workshop.

The rest, as they say, is history. Five decades later, Fakeye's work can be seen in universities, churches and galleries all over the world.

In between practicing his craft and traveling the world showing and selling them, Fakeye teaches woodcarving at a university in Nigeria, where he still lives today.

Fakeye was in Washington on Dec. 12 for the opening of "African Voices," a permanent Smithsonian exhibit aimed at dispelling commonly-held myths about the continent. Fakeye's work is featured in the exhibit and he was on hand at the opening to sign copies of his retrospective

Noted Nigerian artist shares thoughts on art, culture

autobiography.

Fakeye was pictured in a silhouette standing next to one of his creations with an article about the exhibit that ran in the New York Times last week. Fakeye's spending his last week in America before returning home to teach here in Winston-Salem with his longtime friends and fellow Nigerians Yomi and Adey Durotoye.

It was at the couple's home last week that a relaxed and animated Fakeye shared his thoughts on his art and his homeland.

"It's very much alive, very much so," Fakeye said about the arts in Africa.

The centuries-old arts tradition is being kept alive on the continent by potters, bead and leather artists and woodcarvers, Fakeye said. He says African artists are finding greater acceptance of their work in galleries and museums throughout the world. The Smithsonian exhibit is one example of that, Fakeye said.

"In America, African art is very much appreciated," he said. Several of his pieces are on loan at museums here; others have sold for as much as \$20,000.

But this country's love of African art has led to imitation, which is not always a form of flattery.

"We've seen African art with 'made in Hong Kong' on the back of it," said Yomi Durotoye, who teaches politics at Wake Forest University.

They call the imitations "airport art," because it's commonly sold in airports to tourists and unsuspecting natives. True African art cannot be mass produced; it takes time to create and it often will not be cheap.

Fakeye's creations are sold through galleries, and he says about a dozen sales a year provide him enough money to live comfortably. His smaller woodcarvings take up to a week to complete.

In addition to masks, Fakeye's smaller pieces include carvings of figures from the Yoruba culture, like Sango, the custodian of energy, who is depicted variously in his work. The smaller pieces can be hung from walls or fit on mantels or tables.

"His carvings speak to Yoruba traditions," Yomi Durotoye said.

The Durotoyes' house is filled with Fakeye's arts. They have collected many pieces from African artists over the years.

It takes Fakeye up to a year to complete his larger pieces. It took him about that long to carve the gigantic doors to the Nigerian



Lamidi Olonade Fakeye holds one of his woodcarvings at the home of Yomi Durotoye in Winston-Salem. Fakeye, a world renowned artists, is in the country for a Smithsonian exhibit.

Photo by Kevin Walker

Assembly; he has done similar doors for churches and schools.

Fakeye's largest creation was completed in 1987. The imposing statue of Ife, believed to be the first woman on Earth, stands near the entrance of Oduduwa Hall of the Obafemi Awolowo University.

Fakeye works with a variety of woods, from iroko, which is plen-

tiful in Nigeria, to mahogany, which he says is one of his favorites. To this day, he still goes through the painstaking process of woodcarving with a bevy of homemade tools. Now and then, Fakeye will use a chisel or other Western tools.

Fakeye says age hasn't slowed his productivity down. In fact, he

believes it has enhanced his personality.

"The older you are, the better you get," he said with a smile.

Though Fakeye doesn't plan any public appearances in Winston-Salem this time, he says it's a possibility he will return in the near future for that purpose.

See Artist on A9

Organizations offer last-minute tax writeoffs

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Goodwill Industries and Salvation Army are two of the local charities that provide opportunities for last-minute tax writeoffs.

Goodwill accepts clothing, furniture, household items, computers, small appliances, boats, campers, automobiles and books. Goodwill cannot accept mattresses, box springs, stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, dryers and tires.

Donors get a tax deduction and Goodwill gets additional funds for education, job training and job placement programs for people with barriers to employment.

Donations are sold in Goodwill. Retail stores. Automobiles that are donated are used in Goodwill's Wheels-to-Work program linking a donated car to a welfare recipient who has a job but needs dependable transportation to keep it.

Goodwill provides receipts to donors at its drop-off sites, and attendants can validate itemized lists when they are presented.

Goodwill has 13 attended donation centers throughout northwestern North Carolina, including:

- Main, 2701 University Park-

way, Winston-Salem, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 29, 30 and 31.

- Mount Tabor, 3327 Robinhood Road (across from Sherwood Plaza Shopping Center), 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Dec. 29, 30 and 31.

- 4883 Country Club Road (Cottman Transmission), 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 29, 30 and 31.

- Wal-Mart, 4550 Kester Mill Road, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 29, 30 and 31.

Salvation Army's Thrift Store, 1035 Northwest Blvd., is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 29, 30 and 31, and Salvation Army will have a truck in the parking lot at Target Department Store on University Parkway Dec. 29, 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Salvation Army does not accept items that need repair, because it has no one to repair them, said Warren Martin. Salvation Army accepts items including furniture, clothes, household goods and toys. If you wish to donate a car, call the Salvation Army at 723-6366.

People who wish to make monetary donations to the Salvation Army should date their checks by Dec. 31, 1999, and mail to the Salvation Army at P.O. Box 1205, Winston-Salem, NC 27102.

have long been a part of Winston-Salem," Burke added.

The CVB has targeted the minority market since 1987. The bureau attempted to gain more minority conventions and tours by showcasing the city as a potential meeting and convention destination at major minority conferences and meetings, including the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners fall and spring meetings.

According to figures released from the CVB, minority-based conventions should generate a total of 10,850 room nights for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Guide

from page A1

Salem, like the 1915 graduating class of the Slater Academy (now known as Winston Salem State University).

The guide also lists African-American owned shops, restaurants and hot nightclubs for the tourist to visit while in the Twin City.

"This guide is something that the African American community can be proud of," Burke said. "It encompasses our history and includes African American businesses, churches and people who

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This Publication Effective Wednesday, Dec. 29 - Jan 4, 2000

Lowes foods

www.lowesfoods.com

good for you.

Double Manufacturer's Coupons

We will double manufacturer's coupons up to 60¢ with \$35.00 food order (before taxes).

5 lb. or More Genuine Ground Chuck

Save 1.00 lb.

80% Lean Smithfield Ground Pork 1.29 lb.

1 Ct. Good Cook Nylon Ladle 99¢

99¢

lb.

Smaller Packages 1.29 lb.

E-Z Fix BBQ Meatballs

Meatball: 2 lb. Ground Beef or Chuck
1 1/2 cup Dry Bread Crumbs
2 Eggs
1/2 cup Milk
1/2 cup Chopped Onions
Sauce: 16 oz. Apricot Preserves
16 oz. BBQ Sauce

Directions: Mix ground chuck, bread crumbs, egg, onion and milk together. Form 1 inch balls. Bake for 15-20 minutes at 350°. Pour preserves and BBQ in a crockpot. Place meatballs in crockpot and heat. Makes 48 meatballs.

USDA Choice Boneless Top Sirloin Steak

Save 2.00 lb.

2.99

lb.

Tyson Holly Farms Split Chicken Breast

Save 1.40 lb.

89¢

lb.

Assorted Varieties Lowes Foods 3 Liter Cola

Save 20¢

79¢

ea.

Firm Green Cabbage

Save 30¢ lb.

19¢

lb.

24 pk./12 oz. Cans Bud Ice or Bud or Bud Light Suitcase

Where Available

12.99

ea.

No Card Required To Get Our Low Advertised Prices!

We welcome your calls on our toll-free Customer Hotline: 1 (800) 311-2117 or on the internet at barbara@lowesfoods.com.

Most Lowes Foods Locations Accept:

Pay With Your ATM Card. We Gladly Accept W.E.C. Vouchers and Federal Food Stamps. Locally Owned And Operated.

An Opportunity To Serve Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education is accepting applications and nominations for people to serve on its Equity Committee. This advisory board provides valuable feedback on issues regarding instruction, staffing, and resources among our 50 zone schools.

If you are interested in being considered for the committee, or if you know someone who could make positive contributions to our schools, contact Amanda Bell, Assistant Superintendent, at 727-2787, for an application and more information. Application deadline is January 3.

