

Art

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Cornelia had always made notes about the pieces she was working on and she drew from these to add a narrative to the book. She said that much of her art was created during Obama's campaign for president and time he was in the White House. She said the energy she felt from Obama "... lit me up as an artist,"

and several of her works are her reflections of the Obamas. She said some of her work mirrors "what everyone sees and what is under the radar."

James writes poetry and some of his poetry accompanies Cornelia's art in the book. James says, "I write from the heart," and doesn't edit; he writes what he's feeling at that time and then he's through with it. He seldom changes it after

that.

"Society Conscious" was published by Empire Publishing in 2018. Mike Simpson, publisher, remarked, "Only rarely as a publisher do you encounter an author or artist whose work is so unexpected, so totally unique and creative that it fills you with awe. That was my experience in 2010 when I first met Cornelia Webster. Over the following eight years,

as we worked to bring her book to perfection, my awareness of her abilities and prophetic insight has only grown."

The book is unique in that it has to be turned one way and then another to read the poetry, narratives and notes, as well as to see the art from different angles. James said he hopes the art and narrative will "put some truths out there," and that he believes it "touches on all

parts of life." He hopes readers will be strong enough to understand the range of emotions they will experience as they think about the meaning in the pictures and the accompanying notes.

Cornelia wants the book to inspire readers "to reflect on their life." James wants the book to "make you think and get you off the fence."

However you view the book, it will touch you

emotionally when you least expect it and stay with you long after the book is closed.

"Society Conscious" was launched at the 2018 Bookmarks Festival of Books and Authors. It is available on Amazon.com. Signed copies are available from the authors by calling 336-287-5177.

Author

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lar authors there was also the youngest, 10-year-old Isaac Redfern, the author of "Isaac's Adventures In Paris." A native of Winston-Salem, in his

book Redfern details his amazing adventure during a trip to Paris, France. While there, Redfern explores the Parisian culture - their language, money, food and a few major events.

When asked how it felt to be a published author at such a young age, Redfern

said he was proud of what he has accomplished.

"I was a little nervous at first, but I'm proud to be an author."

Redfern told The Chronicle to be on the lookout for his next book that will detail his adventures in Brazil.

If poetry or a travelers'

guide to Paris isn't what you were looking for, there were plenty of other options to choose from during the Author Fair. From cookbooks to fiction, non-fiction and children's books, the event had something for everyone.

While making her way

through the crowd, Tanisha Watts said she had no idea there were so many published African-American authors right here in the Triad. Watts, who is an avid reader, said she made it her mission to speak with every author there.

"If we don't support

each other, nobody will. I think this event was a great idea to get local authors the exposure they deserve," Watts said.

For more information on the African-American Author Fair or for a complete list of the authors who attended the event, call 336-703-2954.

Exhibit by late artist Sam "The Dot Man" McMillan opens at SECCA

BY JUDIE HOLCOMB-PACK THE CHRONICLE

Some artists have followers; the late Sam McMillan, known as The Dot Man for his distinctive painting style, has a fan club.

An exhibit of his work on loan from collectors - and friends and family of the artist - opened Thursday evening, Feb. 21, at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) and attendees wore their personal items of clothing that Sam had given to them and spoke about pieces that they were

proud to own. And it seemed like everyone had a story to tell.

Wendy Earle, curator of contemporary art at SECCA, mentioned that the show was a commemoration of Sam's extraordinary talent and contained pieces from private collections. An earlier "soft opening" was held and received enthusiastic response. Over 125 people attended the opening reception. Earle commented that Sam McMillan was "a little gem in our community."

Earle noted that

McMillan was a self-taught artist, considered an "outsider" artist, as he had no formal training. He was born June 22, 1926, in Robeson County, and didn't start painting until he was in his 60s. He moved to Winston-Salem in 1977 and worked for DeWitt Chatham Hanes, who encouraged him to pursue painting. He became a prolific artist and his work has been exhibited in the Outsider Art Fair in New York City, museums in North Carolina, Texas, and elsewhere, as well as the Smithsonian's

Anacostia Community Museum.

Attending the opening were Sam's son, Larry McMillan, and granddaughter, Kimberly. His son noted that his father was always creative and refinished furniture and repurposed items he found. His granddaughter said her grandfather "liked colors," and added, "Anything my grandfather could put his hands on, he would paint." She carried a purse with a UNC design that he had painted for her. She said she spent a lot of time with



Photos by Judie Holcomb-Pack
Larry McMillan, son of Sam "The Dot Man" McMillan, stands in front of a statue of his father from the collection of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

See Dot Man on A3

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