

Black feminist Faith Ringgold lectures

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Journal

The UNCC Fine Arts Committee presented Faith Ringgold in a two-hour slide lecture January 27, 8:00 p.m. in the Lucas Room. Held also January 27-31 was Ringgold's Art Exhibit in the Little Gallery of Cone Center.

Who is Ringgold? Faith Ringgold is an artist noted for her Black and Feminine Art. She may now be known as the artist responsible for the 'families' sitting on sofas and hanging five to six feet tall in the Little Gallery. One family exhibited was really made of coconut heads attached to foam rubber bodies that had been metallic sprayed and clothed, while another was made of African masks attached to dress garments. One scene, 'Wedding Song' was a black male and female in the ritual with a child at their side. The effect and purpose appeared different from one of Ringgold's slides showing

a painting of a wedding in which the mother rather than the father gives the bride away.

Ms. Ringgold's lecture on Black Art placed special emphasis on political issues through "an expression of the Black cultural synthesis or feminist art as an expression of woman's emerging identity". Ringgold said there have been Black women feminists as early as 1833 and particularly during the slavery period. On her 'Political Landscape' paintings are written "What if I am a woman..."; "Did not Queen Esther save the Jews..."; and "We have all been thrown down so low..." by Sojourner Truth (1853).

Unlike white women who face sex discrimination, black women are confronted with both sexism and racism. Ringgold said the black feminist movement has not been as effective as Women's Liberation

because of the dual oppression and black women are poor and don't have the time needed for the cause.

In 1972 Ms. Ringgold received a CAP grant to do a mural for the Women's House of Detention on Rieker's Island, N.Y., the significance being that "The execution of this mural marked the beginning of my involvement with women in art". Since black men are 40% of the black population while black women are 60% it's natural for women to be her art subject. Ringgold said, "Art must come from self".

Ringgold developed in 1972 a style she calls 'super realism'. It places emphasis on large heads and smaller, less important bodies. This African practice implies "the head is the seat of the soul".

Ms. Ringgold relates very heavily to African design. When making her African masks, the

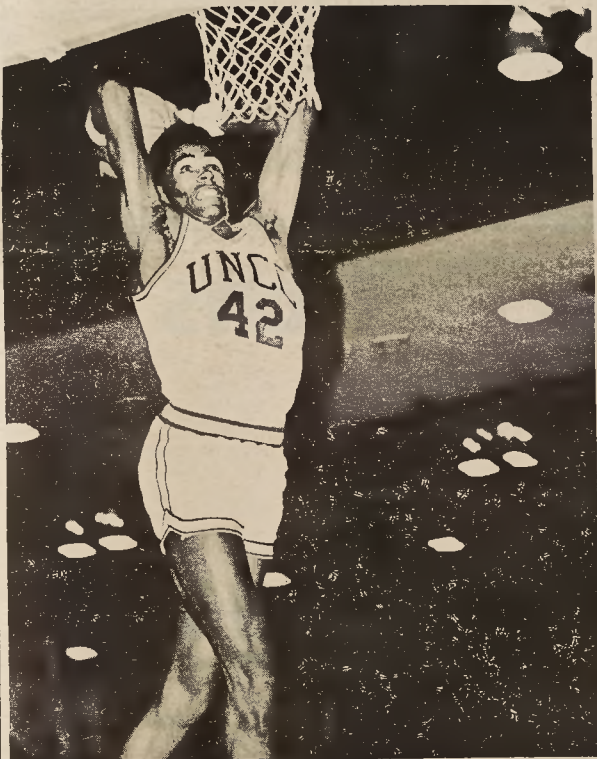
hair is never black. She uses red, yellow and orange to create a "fantastic image".

When asked to define Black Art, Ringgold said "I hope it is implicit in my work...Black art comes from African principles that express the American Black experience".

A native of New York, Faith Ringgold studied with Robert Gwathney and the Chinese artist Kuniyoshi before receiving her M.A. in Fine Arts from City College of N.Y. in 1959. Since then her art exhibits have been at the New York Cultural Center, the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, Germany and the Museum of Modern Art. Also she has had two one-woman shows, 1967 and 1970 in the Spectrum Gallery in New York.

Presently Ms. Ringgold is planning a painting 'Environment on Harlem' for the bicentennial celebration.

journal photo by don yelverton



Jon Heath en route to a slam dunk against St. Leo's this past Tuesday.

Vern Parrish questions media on need for space

by jane ross

Vern Parrish, Director of the University Center, spoke briefly Tuesday January 21 concerning media space problems. The discussion came at the regular meeting of the Student Media Board.

Parrish distributed questionnaires on space in each individual media office for completion by each media head. Future meetings between Parrish and the media heads to discuss space problems were planned. Parrish asked that the expansion of various branches of the media be considered during the completion of questionnaires.

In other business, Dick Wyzanski, WVFN station manager, stated that the application for an FM frequency was currently in Washington D.C. Action will be taken by the FM commission after the filing of one engineering report. Wyzanski also said the current AM station was running normally.

In the Sanskrit report, Editor Joe McCorkle estimated one week until the arrival of the first edition of Sanskrit. McCorkle said the issue should contain some 40 pages of fiction, poetry, and visual arts. There are still plans for three

issues of the literary magazine during the 74-75 academic year.

The Rogues 'n Rascals report dealt with the termination of the contract with Stevens Photography Company. Herb Eaton has been asked to replace the Stevens Company in the taking of the class pictures for the 75 yearbook.

Chairman Steve Morris stated that the Media Board now had access to a definite room for future meetings and for the storage of minutes and files. Morris plans to look into developing the room into a media lounge.

'Dimensions of World Hunger Week' declared

by susan sluss

Chancellor D.W. Colvard has declared the week of February 23-28 as 'Dimensions of World Hunger Week'.

The week is a United Religious Ministry Project and Reverend Paul Larson, Baptist University Chaplain said the plans for the week are divided into three areas.

The first area is the 'Simple Meal Program', headed by Marian Beane, Residence Coordinator for Sanford Hall. The 'Simple Meal Program' is where an individual on a voluntary basis donates one dollar for a meal that will be comparably typical to that which people in one of the undernourished areas in the world would be eating. It will be served on a separate line in the Commuter and Dorm Cafeterias. A list of several programs will be available for participants to designate where they wish their contribution to be sent, for example education, feeding or

family planning. Twenty-five to thirty cents of the dollar will be used for meal expenses, the rest as donation. The committee feels that "the lack of a substantial balanced meal will help participants to be more aware of the daily existence of millions".

The second area deals with the main speaker to speak during the week. Reverend Larson and Dr. Loy Witherspoon have been in charge of this area.

Dr. Phillip Handler, President of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington D.C. will be the main guest speaker. Dr. Handler, who will speak on Thursday, February 27 at 1:00 in the Lucas (Parquet) Room, is a professor of Medical Science at George Washington University. He is formerly of Duke University where he was a professor of biochemistry and

nutrition.

The third area deals with other guest speakers, faculty members from UNCC and knowledgeable individuals in and around Charlotte, who will speak in informal situations to discuss some perception of World Hunger in different fields.

Myra Martin, Chairman of the Rathskellar Committee of the University Program Board has offered to hold a Marathon Benefit during the week in the Rathskellar.

Reverend Larson said the Simple Meal Program is fund-raising in nature and will help the world's hunger now but he feels the educational aspects (the lectures) "in the long run will serve the world hunger better".

The Dimensions of World Hunger Week will examine its subject problem from several angles, including nutritional, political, economical facets.

Enrollment for fall semester up 6%

by jerry proctor

The economic crisis seems to have had little effect on student applications to attend UNCC next fall. Director of Admissions Robert Grogan indicated that undergraduate applications are up about one percent over a comparison with last year's figures. His application figures are based on student applicants before January 15 of each year.

Grogan expects another good-sized increase in student enrollment next fall, he said, "We expect about a 6% increase as compared with an 8.7% rise last fall. This will place total enrollment somewhere around

7000 students. Grogan indicated that last year's 8.7% enrollment increase at UNCC, although not as high as in previous years, was still the largest increase in the entire UNC system.

Grogan expects UNCC to have about 1000 freshmen and about 900 transfer students next fall. He added, "There are fewer students coming out of high schools now and this allows us to admit a higher quality of applicant."

More will be known about next fall's enrollment figure after July 1, the cutoff date for application to UNCC.