

resident Carlton E. Brown and the Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries welcome the National Conference of Artists (NCA) to the site of its inauguration during the Atlanta University Annual Exhibition of 1959. The AU Annuals (formerly titled the Exhibition of Paintings, Sculpture, and Prints by Negro Artists of America) was the creation of legendary artist and educator Hale Aspacio Woodruff (1900-1980). Woodruff envisioned for black artists a national forum in which to display their art and conduct discourse about their creative endeavors. During the height of segregation in 1942, Atlanta University ambitiously launched what became a galvanizing social event for Black Atlanta until 1970. Recognizing the need for an alliance in an art world where black artists were virtually invisible, the NCA's founding members took up the charge to support its kind.

The first *National Conference of Negro Artists* was held on March 28-29, 1959, in Dean Sage Hall. Some years later the organization deleted the term "Negro," thus becoming the *National Conference of Artists*. The meeting was initiated by a group of Chicago artists and educators led by the inimitable trailblazer Dr. Margaret Burroughs. Sixty-one artists, including Burroughs, James D. Parks, Eugenia V. Dunn, Jewel W. Simon, William V. Harper, Allan G. Junier, Virginia Kiah, Jack Jordan, Bernard Goss, David Driskell, and Arthur Rose among others launched what has become the longest operating African-American artist-educators group. Several of these artists began exhibiting in the national juried competition in the 40s, including Dr. Burroughs, who won her first award for the etching, *Friends*, in 1945. Over the five decades *NCA* chapters emerged in many cities, including Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Birmingham, Dallas, Los Angeles, Boston, Richmond and Rochester, NY.

The intersection of American art with social history is revealed in CAU's historic collection of African-American art. Social commentary and genre subjects predominate in the collection. Annually designated juries to select the work were curiously absent of black jurors for the majority of the twenty-nine Annuals. The Civil Rights Movement served to inspire participating artists to demand what was only reasonable—that their art be evaluated by jurors who shared their experiences. It was not until the last year of the Annuals in 1970 that the jury was all black—David Driskell, Floyd Coleman, and Jack Adams. And, while more research is required, it is reasonably safe to attribute those changes to the alliance of artists in the *National Conference of Artists*.

Clark Atlanta University is delighted to be an integral part of *NCA's* raison d'être, as they continue their mission to promote and support artists of the African Diaspora. Through the reprinting of the 1959 AU Bulletin review of NCA's first conference, the Art Annual checklist, and photographs of the occasion, Clark Atlanta University congratulates the *National Conference of Artists* on its 50th Anniversary celebration.

Tina Dunkley
Director
Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries

18th Annual Art Exhibition and



David Driskell of Talladega, winner of the John Hope Award for the best landscape, before his "Young Pines Growing" with his wife and daughters.

A new dimension was added to the Atlanta University Annual Art Exhibition when there was convened to coincide with the opening of the eighteenth exhibition a national conference of Negro artists. Although the conference looked to the past and the contribution that the University had made in encouraging the Negro artist and examined the contemporary status of the American Negro in art, the focus of the conference was on the future and to that end a permanent organization was formed.

group of Chicago artists, Margaret Burroughs, Marion Perkins, Bernard Goss and Robert Jones, but the committee was enlarged to include such names as James D. Parks, Lawrence Brice, Fred Anderson, Lawrence Jones, Delbert Lovelady, Harper T. Phillips, Joseph W. Gilliard, Orgeon Hendricks, Rex Goreleigh, Frederic F. Kersey, Samella Lewis, Ernest Crichlow, Charles White, Vernon Winslow, James Watkins, Jenelsie Holloway, Yvonne P. Hunt, William E. Johnston, Iona Jeffries, Calvin for the two-day meeting were made by a committee of Atlanta artists under the co-chairmanship of Miss Dunn and Mrs. Holloway.

Sixty-one delegates from fourteen states, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, registered for the conference, listened to and presented discussions of such subjects as "The Place of Art in the Curriculum," "How to Improve the Position of the Burnett, Vincent Sanders, Jr., and Negro Artist," and "Current Trends The conference was the idea of a Eugenia V. Dunn. Local arrangements in American Painting." And people

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

Conference of Negro Artists

attending the opening of the exhibition had the added pleasure of meeting and talking to many of the artists represented.

Out of this initial conference developed a permanent organization with the following officers: Chairman, Margaret Burroughs, Chicago; vice-chairman, James D. Parks, Lincoln University, Missouri; secretary, Eugenia V. Dunn, Louisville, Kentucky; treasurer, Jewel Woodard Simon, Atlanta; public relations, William V. Harper II, Clark College, Atlanta; consultant to young artists, Virginia Kiah, Savannah State College, Georgia. Four regional chairmen were chosen: Arthur Rose, Claflin, College, Orangeburg, South Carolina, Southeastern; Jack Jordan. Langston University, Oklahoma. Western; Delbert Lovelady, Fort Defiance, Arizona, Far Western; and Bernard Goss, Chicago, Middle West-

The growth of the Atlanta exhibition since 1942 was pointed up by President Clement in his remarks of welcome to the conference as he compared the one hundred seven works of sixty-two artists chosen for exhibition from one hundred twentyfive entries at the first exhibition with the one hundred thirty-nine works by eighty-two artists chosen from approximately five hundred entries for the current exhibition. Since the size of the exhibition is limited by the space available for showing it, it has become necessary to limit the number of works a single artist may enter.

The value of the awards has also increased — from \$500 in 1942 to \$1400 in 1959, with more prize money in view for 1960. The cultural contribution of the exhibition to the entire community has been tangibly recognized by Radio Station

\$500 toward the awards, the prizewinning works still to remain in the University's permanent collection of Negro art. Further recognition is shown by the large attendance during the month the show was on view and the number of works which were bought, mostly for private collections, but one for a branch library in Gainesville, Georgia.

The show was well balanced with many genres represented; the themes perhaps evidenced a lack of concern with "negritude" with more emphasis on universal values. And the jury of selection commented on the absence of more than a smattering of social protest.

The John Hope Award for the best landscape went to David Driskell, twenty-eight-year-old professor of art at Talladega College, Alabama, for "Young Pines Growing," a semi-abstract. Mr. Driskell also received honorable mention in oils for his "Red and Blue Still Life."

Two first awards were won by students at Hampton Institute, the prize for the best figure or portrait in oil by Mildred Braxton of Newport News, Virginia, for "Figure I" and the first prize in the graphic arts by Hubert C. Taylor for a drawing, "Bus Stop."

James Conroy Yeargans of New York received the first award for any subject in oil for his abstract "Quest of Blue." Mr. Yeargans, who is a regular exhibitor here, received the same award in 1955 for "Vatusi Dance." The second prize for any subject in oil went to James Watkins of Akron, Ohio, for a portrait, "Wid-



Some of the artists attending the National Conference: first row, left to right, Margaret Burroughs, Chicago, chairman; Eugenia V. Dunn, Atlanta, chairman of the host committee; second row, Jack Jordan, Langston University; William V. Harper II, Clark College; Bernard Goss, Chicago; Arthur Rose, Claffin College.

JULY, 1959



Mrs. Laurance S. Rockefeller, Mrs. Hugo M. Skala, Dr. Skala, and Miss Florence M. Read, President Emeritus of Spelman College, at the Trustees Reception.

Alfred Stevenson of Alabama State College, Montgomery, for "Head of a Mother" in wood. Although this is his first award, he has previously received honorable mention in prints.

In water colors, Vivian Williams, an art teacher of Coshocton, Ohio, received the first award for "Discards" and Leedell Moorehead of Florida A. & M. University, the second for "Night of Solitude."

In the graphic arts category, first prize went to Mr. Taylor, second to John Arterbury, associate professor of art at Florida A. and M. University, for his etching "Of the Soil." Mr. Arterbury also gained honorable mention in oils for his "Unsung Hero." Another etching, "Mother

0000

ow Woman," on the popular ballot of those attending the show. Balloting for this award was close with "The Garden" by Romeyn Van Lippman of Boston and "Saint Joan" by June Hector of Atlanta close behind. This was Mr. Watkin's second Atlanta University award, his "Study of a Negro Man" having been judged the best portrait in 1958.

William E. Artis received his sixth Atlanta University award, the fifth in sculpture, with first prize for his powerful stone "Head of a Young Lady." Now at Nebraska State Teachers College in Chadron, Mr. Artis took first prize in sculpture in 1944, 1947 and 1951, and second prize in 1952.

Second prize in sculpture went to



Visitors at the Trustees Reception view "Rocking Horse" by Harper T. Phillips of Hampton Institute. To the right is James Yeargans' prize-winning "Quest of Blue."

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY BULLETIN



June Hector, Spelman College, and James Watkins, Akron, Ohio, with Mr. Watkin's "Widow Woman," winner of the Popular Award. Miss Hector's "Saint Joan" was third in the popular ballot.

and Child," by Anna E. Costley, a student at Maryland State College, won third prize.

Other honorable mentions went to Allen G. Junier, scientific illustrator at the Veterans Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama, for "Josh," in portraits or figures; William Anderson III, student at Alabama State College, for "Stone Sculpture"; Yvonne Parks Hunt, Atlanta, for "Indigo" in water color; and Leroy Weaver, Prairie View, Texas, for "Journey" in graphic arts,

The prizes were awarded and the exhibition selected by a jury composed of Lamar Dodd, art department, University of Georgia, Ferdinand Warren, art department, Agnes Scott College, and George Beattie, Atlanta artist.



"Young Horse" by Hayward L. Oubré of Montgomery attracted much attention.

JULY, 1959

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Eighteenth Annual Exhibition

Paintings § Sculpture § Prints

by NEGRO ARTISTS

0

Exhibition Gallery
Trevor Arnett Library
March 29-April 26, 1959

WATER COLORS

68. AI	ston, Frank H., Jr., Washington, D. C.	Bowling Bridge
69. AL	ston, Frank H., Jr., Washington, D. C	Day - Cape Cod, Massachmeetis
70. B	erroughs, Margaret Taylor, Chicago, Illinois	Boy and Butterfy
71. Co	leman, Floyd W., Montgomery, Alahama	Paragram
	empton, Phillip J., Savannah, Georgia	
	urper, William V. II, Atlanta, Georgia	
	rrper, William V. II, Atlanta, Georgia	
	unt, Yvonne Parks, Atlanta, Georgia	
	ant, Yvonne Parks, Atlanta, Georgia	
	hnaon, Estella W., New York, New York	
	mier, Alian G., Tuskegee, Alabama	
	nk, Eleanor M., Gary, Indiana	
	artin, Clee M., Baten Ronge, Louisiana	
	porchead, Leedell, Tallahassee, Florida	
100	ahré, Hayward L., Jr., Montgomery, Alabama	
	mon, Jewel Woodard, Atlanta, Georgia	
84. T	aylor, Spencer, New Oricans, Louisiana	Old New Orleans
85. Ta	ylar, Spencer, New Orleans, Louisiana	The Shack
86. W	illiams, Vivian, Coshocton, Ohio.	*Discords
	CCHIPTURE	
	SCULPTURE	
87. Ar	nderson, William James III, Montgomery, Alabama	Impasilo
	aderson, William James III, Montgomery, Alahama	
	rington, McDonald, Montgomery, Alabama	
	etia, William E., Chadron, Nebraska	
	rterbery, John W., Tallahasses, Florida	
	eagin, John W., Montgomery, Alabama	
	ubré, Hayward L., Jr., Montgomery, Alabama	
	idley, Gregory, Jr., Grambling, Louisiana.	
	eltzer, Morris J., Mobile, Alabama	
	evenson, Alfred L., Montgomery, Alahama	
	evenson, Alfred L., Montgomery, Alabama	
	errell, Roy, Grambling, Louisiana	
99. W	illiams, Hobie L., Fort Landerdale, Florida	Brime
* Prize	Winners ** Honorable Mention	

PRINTS

100. Anderson, William James III	, Montgomery, Alabama	The Armostic
101. Anderson, William James III.		
102. Arterbery, John W., Tallahas		
103. Arterbery, John W., Tallahas		
104. Bailey, Herman D. III, Los		
165. Bailey, Herman D. III, Los A		Sec. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19
106. Coleman, Floyd W., Montgos		
107. Collins, Garmel P., Jr., New		
108. Costley, Anna E., Sykesville,		
109. Crawford, Carl M., Fort Land		
		Sleapy Hollow
110. Dorch, Calestine, North Rand	olph, Massachmasta	Cas Niles
111. Dorch, Celestine, North Ran-	dolph, Massachusetts	
112. Dorch, Celestine, North Rand		
113. Dorch, Celestine, North Rand	olph, Massachusetts	Printer
114. Driskell, David C., Talladega		
115. Hammonds, Zenobia, Hampto		
116. Hayes, Walter J., Montgomes		
117. Hooks, Earl J., Gary, Indian		
118. Hunt, Chinton Isalah, Princes		
119. Johnson, Estella W., New Yor		
120. Johnston, Charles, Hampton, 121. Johnston, Charles, Hampton,		
122. Jordan, Jack, Langston, Okla		SMI Lije
193 Joseph Leak Farmer City		
123. Jordan, Jack, Langston, Okla		Retired Sedness
124. Junier, Allen G., Tuskeges,	Alabama assessment	Self Portreit
125. Loe, Albert, Montgomery, Al		
126. Love, Mary Helen, Princets A	nne, Maryland	Sinta
127. Mosely, Jimmie, Princess Am	ic, Maryland	Without a Home
128, Price, Tommie E., Tulsa, Ok.		Red Owl
129. Price, Tommie E., Tulsa, Ok 180. Redd, Emily Alfreda, Hampd	n Sylvan Visitia	
131. Rogers, Julia A., Tallahusses,	Florida	South Plane
132, Stallings, Charles W., Baltime	re, Maryland	
133. Stallings, Charles W., Baltim		
134. Stephens, Lewis H., Princess	inne, Maryland	The state of the s
135. Taylor, Hubert C., Hampton,	Virginia	Star Star
136. Taylor, Hubert C., Hampton,	Virginia	Post
187. Upshur, Bernard, Princess Ar	ne, Maryland	Meditation
138. Weaver, Laroy C., Prairie Vic	r, Texas	Jown Landscape
189. Wenver, Leroy C., Prairie Vie		**Journey
* Prise Winners ** Ho	norable Mention	

OILS

1.	Anderson, Freddie, Chicago, Illinois	Long Winter
2.	Anderson, Freddie, Chicago, Illinois	The Mill
3.	Anderson, William James III, Montgomery, Alabs	amsStill Life
4.	Arterbery, John W., Tallahassee, Florida.	Landscape with Evergreens
5.	Arterbery, John W., Tallabasses, Florida	**Unsung Hero
6.	Bell, Alpha, Montgomery, Alabama	Grill Corner
7.	Bell, Alpha, Montgomery, Alabama	Still Life
8.	Berry, A. R., Tallahassee, Florida	
9.	Berry, A. R., Tallahassee, Florida	Vase of Flowers
10.	Braxton, Mildred A., Newport News, Virginia.	*Figure #1
11.	Brice, Lawrence, Jr., Chicago, Illinois	Table #1
12.	Brice, Lawrence, Jr., Chicago, Illinois	Table #4
13.	Bush, Walter I., Montgomery, Alabams	The Family
14.	Coleman, Floyd W., Montgomery, Alabama	
15,	Coleman, Floyd W., Montgomery, Alabama	To Work
16.	Driskell, David C., Talladega, Alabama	**Red and Blue Still Life
17.	Driekell, David C., Talladega, Alabama	
18.	Driskell, David G., Talladega, Alabama	*Young Pines Growing
19,	Dunn, Eugenia V., Atlanta, Georgia	Masks
20.	Evans, Richard, Jefferson City, Missouri	Transcendation
21.	Figures, Alfred, Mobile, Alabama	Landscope with House Tops
	Goodwin, Thomas E., Gary, Indiana	
23.	Gorcleigh, Rex, Princeton, New Jersey	Head-Model
	Goreleigh, Rex, Princeton, New Jersey	
25.	Hammonds, Zenobia, Hampton, Virginia	
26.	Hampton, Phillip J., Savannah, Georgia	Sea Scuttle
27.	Harper, William V. II, Atlanta, Georgia	Still Life in Blue
	Hector, Jane, Atlanta, Georgia	- 100 PM
	Hector, June, Atlanta, Georgia	
	Hinton, Albert L., Hampton, Virginia	
	Hinton, Albert L., Hampton, Virginia	
32.	Hooper, Gerald F., Tallahassee, Florida.	Negro in Industry
	Johnson, Dana, Jefferson City, Missouri.	
	Johnson, Eunice May, Topeka, Kansas	
		onerchist, result absolute di

PRESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY O

111111

OILS

35. Jordan, Jack, Langston, Oklahomu	Females and Kids
36. Jordan, Jack, Langeton, Oklahoma	Integration
37. Junier, Allan C., Tuskegee, Alabama	** Josh
38. King, André, Chicago, Illinois	rly Monday Morning: New Orleans
39. Lewis, Howard E., Tallahassee, Florida	
40. Lewis, Howard E., Tallahassee, Florida.	
41. Lippman, Romeyn V., Boston, Massachusetts	
42. Martin, Pearl Sewell, Prairie View, Texas	
43. Miles, M. Marianne, Austin, Texas	
44. Miles, M. Marianne, Austin, Texas	
45. Moorehead, Leedell, Tallahassee, Florida	
46. Moorehead, Leedell, Tallahassee, Florida	
47. Moreno, Mista, New York, New York	
48. Oubré, Hayward L., Jr., Montgomery, Alabama	
49. Owens, Wallace, Jr., Langston, Oklahoma	
50. Phillips, Harper T., Hampton, Virginia.	
51. Phillips, Harper T., Hampton, Virginia	
52. Price, Ramon B., Chicago, Illinois	
53. Price, Ramon B., Chicago, Illinois	
54. Ridley, Gregory, Jr., Grambling, Louisiana	
55. Ridley, Gregory, Jr., Grambling, Louisiana	
56. Robinson, Peter L., Jr., Washington, D. C.	
57. Robinson, Peter L., Jr., Washington, D. C.	
58. Rose, Arthur, Orangelsurg, South Carolina	
59. Stewart, Earl, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	
60. Taylor, Spencer, New Orleans, Louisians	
61. Taylor, Spencer, New Orleans, Louisians.	Nude with a Flower
62. Taylor, Spencer, New Orleans, Louisiana	
63. Watkins, James, Akron, Ohio.	
64. Williams, George, Jefferson City, Missauri	
65. Williams, Vivian, Coshocton, Ohio	
66. Wimberly, Mary, Jefferson City, Missourl	
67. Yeargans, James Conroy, New York, New York	
* Prize Winners ** Honorable Montion	

AWARDS

Oils

John Hope Purchase Award for the Best Landscape	\$250.00
Atlanta University Purchase Award for Best Portrait or Figure Painting Mildred A. Braxton for "Figure #1"	\$3 00 .00
First Purchase Award (Any Subject)* James Conroy Yeargans for "Quest of Blue"	\$159.00
Second Purchase Award (Any Subject)*(To be chosen by popular ballot)	\$100.00

Water Colors

First Purchase Award*		125.00
	Vivian Williams for "Discards"	
Second Purchase Award* Los	lell Moorehead for "Night of Solitude"	75.00

Sculpture

William E. Artis for "Head of a Young Lady"	2250.00
Second Atlanta University Purchase Award Alfred Stevenson for "Head of a Morber"	\$100.00

Prints

First Purchase Award* Hubert C. Taylor for "Bus Stop"	25.00
Second Purchase Award* John H. Arterbery for "Of the Soil"	15.00
Third Purchase Award* Anna E. Costley for "Mother and Child"	10.00

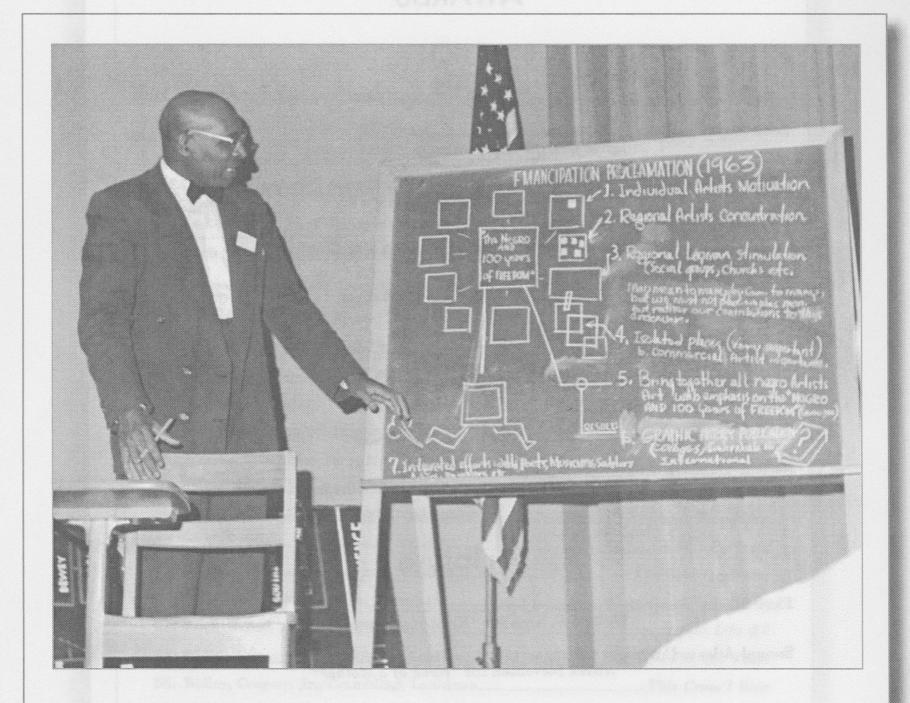
^{*} These awards have been contributed by Radio Station WAOK. The prize-winning works become part of the Atlanta University Permanent Collection.

JURY OF SELECTION

Mr. Lamar Dodd, Chairman

Mr. George Beattle

Mr. Ferdinand Warren



National Conference of Negro Artists, 1959

Marion Perkins presents a historical overview of the development of Negro artists since emancipation.



National Conference of Negro Artists, 1959
Left to right: Jack Jordan (unidentified female), June Hector,
(unidentified male), Margaret Burroughs
Sculpture: Congo Beauty, by Guy Miller



National Conference of Negro Artists, 1959

Left to right: Leedell Moorehead?, Thomas W. Cole, Jr. (President of CAU 1988-2002), James Parks, Arthur Rose, James Watkins, (unidentified woman), Marion Perkins **Second Row**: (unidentified male)

Painting: Saturday Night, by William Hayden



National Conference of Negro Artists

Left to right: Jewel Simon, William Harper, Jenelsie Holloway, (unidentified), Yvonne P. Hunt, (unidentified woman w/hat), Eugenia Dunn

Second row: far right: Virginia Kiah Sculpture: **Quiet One**, by William Artis



National Conference of Negro Artists

Left to right: Robert Jones?, (unidentified male), Eugenia Dunn, Leedell Moorehead, James Parks, Gerald Hooper, (unidentified male in rear), Arthur Rose, (unidentified male), (unidentified male.)

