Summer 1988

McKissick Newsletter - Summer 1988

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina
Bowl with human-like feet; 3500-3200 B.C.; lent by Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada (900.2.128)
Special Programs for “The First Egyptians”

On Sunday, May 1, 1988, McKissick Museum will present the concluding lecture for “The First Egyptians” lecture series. Dr. Walter A. Fairservis, Vassar College, New York, will give a talk on “The Place of Egypt Among the World’s Early Civilizations.” The talk will be held at Gambrell Hall Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

In addition to the lecture series, McKissick Museum will be holding exciting programs for children and adults during the months of May and June. On Saturday, May 14, 10:30-noon, children are invited to attend a workshop on maskmaking. The workshop will include a discussion on the significance of masks and the use of masks by ancient Egyptians. Children will then make their own masks by modeling them on Egyptian styles.

To add to the atmosphere of festivity, the Mideastern band “Taraba” will perform on the front steps of McKissick on Saturday afternoon, May 28. This will be a perfect day to see “The First Egyptians” exhibition and then relax to “Taraba” in the University’s historic Horseshoe area. If it is raining, the band will perform in the upstairs lobby of the Museum.

For younger children, an “Animal Hunt” workshop will be offered on Saturday, June 4. In this workshop, children will learn about several types of animals that live in Africa and then will search through the exhibit to find images of those animals. The workshop will emphasize learning through identification and comparison.

The final program will allow children to become acquainted with several aspects of Egyptian culture. On Saturday afternoon, June 11, McKissick is offering a workshop that includes a traditional Egyptian meal, an informal discussion on modern Egyptian culture and an Egyptian folktale. Egyptian graduate students attending the University will talk about growing up in Egypt. The folktale will be interpreted by a professional storyteller who will be telling the story of “Osiris and Isis.”

To register or inquire further about the Saturday programs, please contact Karen Klein at McKissick Museum (777-7251).

“The First Egyptians” exhibition closes at McKissick Museum at 5:00 p.m., June 19. The presentation will then begin its nearly two-year journey throughout the United States. Its next opening is at Milwaukee Public Museum on July 23 where it will stay for ten weeks before traveling to the Denver Museum of Natural History for a twenty-four week run. In 1989, the exhibition travels to the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and will conclude its travel with a fifteen-week exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution. It is estimated that by April, 1990, when the exhibition objects will be returned to their home institutions, over a million people will have seen the exhibition.
Art of the Carolinas

This summer is a good time to see much of what is currently going on in the art world of the Carolinas. During May and June McKissick Museum is featuring two art exhibitions which present a broad spectrum of works by artists of the two states.

The Springs Traveling Art Show, an annual exhibition at McKissick, opens this year on May 6 with the works of forty-four North and South Carolina artists which were selected as the best entries of over 700 entries. Linda Shearer, a curator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and show juror, picked an oil painting by Gina Gilmour of Charlotte, North Carolina as the best work in the exhibition. Gilmour’s work portrays the conflict of man and nature as modern technology intrudes into the last traces of wilderness. In the painting a deer swims out to sea as a man stands by unnoticing. Juror Shearer commented that the painting caught her eye because of its implication of a story beyond the images depicted on the canvas, “the implicit drama of the deer in the water undercut by the seeming calmness of the figure in the surf.” Gilmour previously took top honors in the Springs Exhibition with her 1978 entry.

Although the works in this exhibition are divided into five media categories, they represent many diverse styles, subjects and techniques. This is a reflection of the current openness in the arts to both experimental and nostalgic forms. For juror Shearer, however, her emphasis in selecting works for this competition was imagination. “My criterion, when I look at art, is that I look for work that I feel is pressing and pushing beyond the boundaries of whatever the medium traditionally may be.”

A number of University faculty and alumni are represented in the exhibition. Will Barnes’ composition “Astral Window #7” is featured as the Merit Award selection in the Mixed Media division. Barnes, who has won numerous awards for his work, has exhibited on a number of occasions at McKissick. Jack Gerstner’s work, “Dreaming of Tramlines, Factories, Places of Machinery, Mineshafts, Things Like That,” took top honors in the field of sculpture. Shearer commented that she found the entries in that medium particularly strong and imaginative.

Carolina Eight, an exhibition of works by eight artists who reside and work within the two states, will open on June 10. Seven of these painters have been working and exhibiting together on a regular basis for a number of years. At each exhibition site they invite a local artist to join them in their presentation. This allows the long standing members of the group to further develop the subtle interrelationships of their art and at the same time gives each showing a different set of images. These artists share a similar approach to both technique and subject matter with watercolor works in a semi-abstract style featured in most of their exhibitions. Guy Lipscomb, Jack Dowis, Alex Powers, Carrie Brown and Alan Taylor are from South Carolina while Ruth Ogle and Kincheloe work in two different cities in North Carolina. Though the group’s joint exhibitions have received much critical praise, each of these artists also has an established independent career and has had solo exhibitions. Lipscomb, Powers, Brown and Ogle are also well known throughout the Carolinas as art teachers while Jack Dowis is a recognized architect.
Metallic Magic
by Truman Teed
May 6 through June 7
Intriguing, sensuous titanium—jewelry, timepieces and paintings by USC professor of art education, Truman Teed.

Rose Hill Plantation Trip
May 12, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Guided tour and picnic lunch at this antebellum cotton plantation. Fee: $10.00 Members, $15.00 Non-Members

Maskmaking Workshop
May 14, 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Maskmaking activities for children ages 7-10 will emphasize Egyptian customs and art. Fee: $5.00 Members, $7.50 Non-Members

Children’s Workshop for Above the Fall Line
May 21, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
“Folk Tales and Traditions” through films, stories and art work. Fee: $5.00 Members, $7.50 Non-Members

“The Taraba”
May 28, Noon-2:30 p.m.
Middle Eastern band “Taraba” will perform on the steps of McKissick.

The First Egyptians
Through June 19
The most recent archaeological discoveries about ancient Egypt are presented with 130 artifacts recovered over the past century to recreate the roots of Egyptian civilization. Three-dimensional models of ancient buildings and photographs of the University of South Carolina’s archaeological dig at Hierakonpolis help tell the story of Egyptian culture at the time of the first Pharaoh.

Ancient Civilization Series by Pat Hill Cresson
Through June 19
Personal interpretations in gouache on rag paper inspired by the original Egyptian stucco wall paintings and imagery. Ms. Cresson worked as expedition artist on the Hierakonpolis Expedition.

Animal Hunt
June 4, 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Children ages 4-6 will meet in the Archives Search Room to see a film on African wildlife. A guide will discuss animals of Egypt and suggest where the children will find images of those animals in the exhibition. Finally, the children will view the exhibit to find the animals. Fee: $4.00 Members, $6.00 Non-Members

Carolina Eight
June 10 through July 31
Recent art works by eight artists from South and North Carolina.

Egyptian Lunch & Storytime
June 11, Noon-2:00 p.m.
Children ages 8-11 will help prepare and eat a simple Egyptian lunch and dessert. During and after lunch, Egyptian graduate students will talk to them about Egyptian culture and show some objects from Egypt. The last half hour will be devoted to telling and interpreting an Egyptian folktale. Fee: $7.50 Members, $10.00 Non-Members
Redcliffe Plantation Trip

June 25, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Guided tour and picnic lunch at the famous home of the South Carolina Hammonds.
Fee: $10.00 Members, $15.00 Non-Members

Architecture

June 20 through 24, 8 & 9 year olds
June 27 through July 1, 10 & 11 year olds
Budding architects will explore the historic Horseshoe and newer buildings on campus and be involved in some creative architecture of their own. This will be an introduction to buildings, their uses and surroundings. Each class will be adapted to the interests and abilities of the participants.

Aviation

June 20 through 24, 10 & 11 year olds
July 18 through 22, 8 & 9 year olds
Participants will examine the beginnings of the aviation adventure as preserved on the Movietonews reels and still photos. They will experiment with some aeronautic designs and models. Each session will be geared to the interests and abilities of the participants.

Folk Tales and Traditions

June 27 through July 1, 5 & 6 year olds
July 11 through 15, 7 & 8 year olds
Children at these sessions will enjoy the folk tales and traditions of our area as presented in literature, on film and through oral tradition. They will create their own interpretations through a variety of art forms.

Making Music

July 11 through 15, 4 & 5 year olds
July 18 through 22, 6 & 7 year olds
Music all around us will be presented through visiting local artists, film, records and a variety of musical experiences. The children will also make their own instruments to facilitate an active musical experience for all participants.

Costume Society of America's Southeastern Regional Symposium

July 29 through 31
The Costume Society of America will hold its Southeastern Regional Symposium at McKissick this year. Registration for the conference is open to members of the Society. Topic for discussion will include collecting, conservation, and display of historic costumes and accessories. Call 777-7251 for more information.

Conservation Workshop

August 2 through 5
Professional conservators from across the United States will share their expertise in current conservation methods with museum professionals and students in museum studies programs. Topics will include the handling, packing, examination, conservation and stabilization of works of art. The workshop is limited to 75 participants in order to maintain an informal, discussion-oriented atmosphere. Registration for the three-day conference is only $50.00. Housing and meal plans are available. Call the Museum at 777-7251 for details. This conference is being supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Family Workshops

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-Noon
Stenciling, August 3rd
Weaving Baskets, August 10th
Quilting, August 17th
Welcome McKissick Museum Charter Members! Thank you for becoming a part of our exciting new membership program. There are many upcoming benefits to McKissick membership listed in this issue's centerfold calendar. We hope that you will take advantage of all that McKissick has to offer.

Charter members as of March 24, 1988 are as follows:

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H. W. Alexander  
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Sheila Anderson  
Nancy Vance Ashmore  
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John and Carol Benfield  
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Greg and Denise Burke  
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Robert V. H. Copp  
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Babette P. Downing  
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Lucy Ford  
Novella Fortner  
Tessa C. Fortner  
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Mary F. Gallaway  
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William J. Strohecker, M.D.  
Rodger E. Strop  
Emily G. Suydam  
Len Tartaglia  
Bruce W. Tate, Jr.  
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Dr. and Mrs. Peyton C. Teague  
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Teal  
George D. Terry  
Steve and Jane Tuttle  
Chris Vlahoplous  
Mike Waddell  
Tony and Claire Wagner  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Waites  
Mr. and Mrs. George Walker  
Ted S. Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Ward  
Ms. L. Janice Watkins  
Cal Watston  
Sandra T. Watts  
Betsy L. Weinberg  
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John Whitehead  
Hugh H. Wilson  
John Windham  
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Emily G. Suydam  
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Judi Wentz  
Frank E. White, Jr.  
Helen M. White  
John Whitehead  
Hugh H. Wilson  
John Windham  
Edmund Yaghjian  
Dell H. Yonce
A “Can Do” attitude was everywhere evident in the Sweetgrass conference that McKissick Museum helped organize in Charleston on March 26, 1988. In session after session basketmakers, scientists and public officials joined together to exchange views on protecting the long cherished artistic tradition in the face of rapid urban growth. Everyone shared as equals. Mr. Joseph Mazyck, a collector of sweetgrass helped scientists learn about sweetgrass, or as they say *Muhlenbergia Filipes*, and botanists like Dr. Joseph Pinson of Coastal Carolina College outlined the habitats where this important sea grass grows.

Mayor Richard L. Jones of Mt. Pleasant, Congressman Arthur Ravenel and Representative Lucille S. Whipper joined with participants from major state and federal agencies concerned with the natural and cultural heritage of South Carolina. They pledged to work with basketmakers to ensure that sweetgrass will continue to be available in South Carolina and specifically in Charleston County.

The sweetgrass conference culminated three years of research and cooperation between the basketmakers and McKissick Museum. Dale Rosengarten, McKissick Museum’s conference organizer, brought together numerous pictures and documents for the basketmakers that they had never seen. In turn, the basketmakers spoke eloquently about what the tradition and the art means to them. Ms. Marguerite Middleton, a basketmaker, summed up everyone’s opinion of the conference, when she described it as a historic event. For McKissick Museum the success of the conference validates our long range planning and careful efforts to involve the basketmakers themselves in our presentations. The historical research and exhibitions can culminate in positive benefits to the traditional culture of South Carolina through the publicity of accurate and timely cooperation of the University, government and the interested public.

**Metallic Magic**

"METALLIC MAGIC" is an exhibition of titanium jewelry, timepieces and paintings executed by Truman Teed, professor of art education and director of undergraduate art at the University of South Carolina. The show is representative of intense study and energy put forth by Teed while on sabbatical leave during spring, 1987. He has been making art pieces with an emphasis on the metal titanium for the past three years.

Titanium is used in high performance aircraft and gas turbine engines. For objects such as Teed’s art pieces the metal undergoes a process known as “anodic oxidation” which utilizes electric current to achieve its unique coloration. These colors are a purely optical effect—no dyes or pigments are involved. The artist controls the variance of color by regulating the voltage of the electrical current.

Truman Teed was born in Cannonsville, New York. He earned degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo and Pennsylvania State University and has taught art at primary, secondary and college levels. Teed assumes an active role in a number of professional committees in both the city and academic community.

His work has been exhibited at a number of museums and galleries, including the Mint Museum in Charlotte and the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton.


**Above the Fall Line**

The Piedmont area continues to be featured in the exhibition "Above the Fall Line." A wide variety of programming will be offered throughout the duration of the exhibition. Trips to Rose Hill and Redcliffe Plantations will include a guided tour and a picnic lunch. The participants will leave McKissick on May 12 and June 25 at 9:00 a.m. and return at 2:30 p.m. The cost for each trip will be $10.00 for museum members and $15.00 for non-members.

A special children’s program in May will be on “Folk Tales and Traditions.” Open to children ages 5 and 6, this morning program will explore the world of folk stories through film, puppets and art projects.
Each year McKissick Museum honors members of its docent corps with the Mildred Kahan Award. This award was established in 1984 in honor of the memory of Mildred Kahan, a former McKissick docent who was also active in the volunteer work of several other agencies in the city. The award is given to docents who have completed 500 hours of service to McKissick since the award was established.

This year's recipient is Ruth Denney. Ruth has assisted at McKissick in several capacities. She works with the archives, collating the University records and memorabilia and is a faithful receptionist, welcoming visitors and offering assistance. Ruth also serves as a hostess and tour guide on special occasions, always ready to try something new when called upon. Shortly after she retired from the faculty of the USC College of Nursing, Ruth helped to establish the Harvest Hope Food Bank. She has continued to serve on the board there and also works as a receptionist/clerical assistant and on-call substitute.

We congratulate Ruth, who was also named the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer of the year this spring! Ruth's name will be engraved on the Mildred Kahan Award plaque which hangs in the docent room at McKissick. McKissick sincerely appreciates the work done by Ruth and all of the other docents who enable McKissick to offer a wide variety of quality programs to the Columbia community and audiences across the state and the country.