

1998

Margaret Ross Tolbert: Portals and Passages

December 6, 1997 - February 1, 1998
Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

This exhibition will present major recent paintings by Florida artist Margaret Ross Tolbert. Tolbert's paintings are possessed of a spiritual quality reflecting her passion for Florida's pristine springs, often viewed from beneath the water, and the impact of recent travels to Turkey, which express her fascination with portals, temples, and grottos. Each work is executed in a lush painterly style, transporting the viewer to an ephemeral state of otherworldliness, some paintings combining natural and temporal imagery suggesting continuity between the known and unknown. This exhibition was organized by the Arts Center Galleries at Okaloosa-Walton Community College and curated by Karen Valdez, Gallery Director.

Virginia Beth Shields: Hush

December 5, 1997 - February 1, 1998
Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

This bookwork installation, utilizing photography and text, explores personal identity through an examination of family history, secrets, and legacies. The work is culturally specific as it simultaneously explores "manhood" within a southern rural context and the artist's personal relationship to that via her childhood relationship with her father. The work also raises socio-political issues relating to the limitations placed on the working class poor by the perceptual filters of dominant culture.

African Art from the Harn Museum of Art: Masks and Masquerade

February 21 - April 19, 1998
Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

Curator: Dr. Robin Poyner, Professor of Art History, University of Florida

This exhibition, drawn from the collection of the Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, will include masks from a number of African peoples including Bamana, Baule, Carerron Grasslands, Dan, Ibibio, Igbo, Ijo, Lega, Kuba, Makonde, Mende, Nuna, Senufo, We, Yoruba, and other tribes from West and Central Africa. The exhibition will explore masks not only as sculptural objects, but more importantly, the exhibition will allow the viewer to understand how these intriguing objects are intimately involved in the lives of their makers. The masks will be presented as sculptural devices that are part of a larger and more expansive art form - the spectacle, a multi-media event that includes an aesthetic arrangement of sight, sound, movement, masquerades, and kinetic sculptures in which the human body serves as an armature, and the audience often includes humans

who observe the interaction, but more importantly the spirits who are the ultimate spectators.

From the Collection: E.K.K. Wetherill

February 21 - April 19, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

Elisha Kent Kane Wetherill (1874 - 1929) studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts at the close of the nineteenth century. He also studied with Whistler and exhibited in the Salon Champs Elysses. He won a gold medal for painting and honorable mention for etching at the panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915 and later Second Altman Prize at the National Academy in 1928. The works in this exhibition, chosen from the Art Center's collection, reflect Wetherill's fascination with the landscape and the influence of nineteenth century American Impressionism.

From the Collection: Fine Crafts

May 9 - June 21, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

Since 1995, the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center has carefully built a distinguished collection of American fine crafts, focusing on artists working in the Southeastern United States. This exhibition will include works acquired since 1995.

Florida Visual Art Fellowship Awards

May 9 - June 21, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

Curator: Frank Holt

Artists: Dan Bilferie, Deland; John Briggs, Plant City; Maria Brito, Miami; Michael Brodeur, Lake Worth; Corinne Gaile, Tampa; Juan Garcia-Lavin, Miami; Grady Kimsey, Winter Park; Kate Kretz, Miami Shores; George Pappas, Daytona Beach; William Schaaf, Gainesville; Tanja Softic, Orlando; Laura Tan, Miami; Maggie Taylor, Gainesville; Margaret Ross Tolbert, Gainesville; Anna Tomczak, Lake Helen; and Theo Wujcik, Tampa.

This exhibition, organized by the Florida Art Museum Director's Association, with guest curator Frank Holt, will present the work of sixteen Florida Visual Artists Fellowship Award recipients. The Florida Fellowship is the most prestigious recognition available to working artists in the state of Florida. This statewide fellowship competition, juried by a panel of arts professionals, is designed to recognize some of the most innovative contemporary art being created in Florida today.

From the Collection: Florida and the Southeast

June 28 - July 26, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

Since 1994, the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center has focused its collecting efforts on contemporary Florida art from 1960 forward and American fine crafts, particularly from the twelve Southeastern states. During this period, 109 works have been acquired. The exhibition will survey this distinguished collection and will include paintings, sculpture, and fine craft media.

Studioworks 1998

June 28 - July 26, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

The annual juried Studioworks exhibition presents the work of Art Center's instructors and students. The exhibition is designed to demonstrate the strength of the Art Center's teaching program. All media will be included in the exhibition such as: painting, ceramics, photography, metalsmithing, sculpture, mixed media, etc. Artists and instructors who have taught or taken classes or workshops at the Art Center during the previous twelve months will be invited to participate. A juror of statewide recognition will be invited to select the exhibition and the award winners.

Florida Biennial III

September 12 - November 15, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

The third Florida Biennial juried competition, organized by the Gulf Coast Art Center, is designed to present some of the most innovative contemporary work occurring in the State of Florida.

Duncan Stewart: 1000 Poems

September 12 - November 15, 1998

Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair, Florida

"1000 Poems", a mixed-media installation work by University of West Florida Art professor Duncan Stewart, provides the gallery visitor with a unique, innovative visual experience. Within the confines of the one thousand 3 x 6 inch plastic bags mounted on shipping tags, the artist has juxtaposed a fascinating array of artifacts gleaned from our disposable culture. This visual overload effectively heightens our awareness of the commonplace elevated to a new aesthetic plane.