Studio Museum in Harlem opens 3 exhibits this weekend

NEW YORK — The Studio Museum in Harlem will inaugurate its new five - story facility with three major exhibitions: "IMAGES OF DIGNITY: A Retrospective of the Works of Charles White;" "RITUAL AND MYTH: A Survey of African American Art," and "HARLEM HEYDAY: The Photography of James VanDerZee."

The exhibitions, which open June 20, are funded by grants from Exxon Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The three inaugural exhibitions demonstrate the broad scope, diversity and relevance of the Studio Museum's African American Art programming.

Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell, executive director of the Studio Museum, said "the exhibitions celebrate the beauty and resilience and 300 years of African American culture."

The three exhibitions embrace the works of 47 black artists working in a variety of media and styles, including painting, photography, sculpture, collage, drawing and assemblage.

IMAGE OF DIGNITY, the third in the Studio Museum's Black Masters Series, presents an unusual opportunity to view works by the late Charles White (1918 - 1979). According to Campbell, White achieved widespread recognition among his fellow artists, but little critical or scholarly attention. The 30 paintings and drawings exhibited span some 30 years of his prolific career. The works trace his growing interest in modernism and his subsequent return to representational realism, which White felt had a special significance in black art. The exhibition will run through August 31, 1982.

Some 75 works of 45 African and African American artists are included in RITUAL AND MYTH. Campbell explained that these works help define the broad historical context that the museum has chosen as its mission. The exhibition links 19th and 20th century artists by revealing the underlying concepts of ritual and myth as expressed in the forum of sculpture, collage, painting, and assemblage. It attempts to illuminate the black experience in America by examining such sources of imagery as Africa, the black church, music, and Christian iconography. RITUAL AND MYTH will run through November 1, 1982.



The Studio Museum in Harlem will open three major exhibitions on Sunday June 20 in New York. The exhibitions will portray the works of 47 black artists working in a variety of media and style. Pictured here are representative works from the three exhibitions: Ritual and Myth (top); Images of Dignity (left) and Harlem Heyday.

A unique opportunity to view and reflect on the history and cultural development of the Harlem community is provided by HARLEM HEYDAY, featuring the photography of James VanDerZee from the 1920s and 1930s. According to Campbell, "the basic theme is Harlem's unique perception of itself, a perception not of an oppressed and improverished people, but of a viable grouping of people who chose to be remembered as stylish, impressive and proud." HARLEM HEYDAY, created in cooperation with The New York State Museum at Albany, features many VanDerZee photographs never before exhibited. The exhibition will run through September 1, 1982.

After the grand opening on June 20th, the Studio Museum will be open to the public for the remainder of the summer from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Friday; from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. The museum will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Studio Museum in Harlem was founded in the mid - 1960s, inspired by an idea of the Junior Council of the Museum of Modern Art. Originally conceived as a working space for contemporary artists, the museum quickly expanded to become a forum for displaying the works of black American artists, for developing an audience for their art and generating critical analysis of that work.

The museum annually presents eight to ten exhibitions featuring the works of local, as well as national and international, black artists.



UPI Photo

Jimmy Lee Smith, jailed for parole violation in Los Angeles, appeared almost relieved to be back behind bars — where he spent most of the last 19 years for the "onion field" murder of a policeman — as he salutes his parole officer when he surrendered June 10.

Convicted killer surrenders after brief parole violation

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — "Onion Field" killer Jimmy Lee Smith — appearing almost relieved to be back behind bars because of a "panicky" three-day disappearance — surrendered to police on a drug-related parole violation.

Smith, who disappeared Monday, June 7 after drugs were found in his system, gave himself up two days later, claiming he was out looking for work.

"I haven't escaped," Smith said as he entered a parole office accompanied by his attorney. "I haven't hurt anybody, I haven't broke no laws."

Smith, who was convicted of murdering a Los Angeles police officer in 1963 in an onion field near Bakersfield, CA was immediately whisked away to jail. He was paroled last February after serving 19 years, despite protests from law enforcement officials who said he remained a threat to society.

Two years after Miami riots blacks still suffer

MIAMI (UPI) — Two years after pervasive despair among Dade County blacks exploded in the 1980 Miami Riots, the social conditions that sparked the fury remain unchanged, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission reports.

A 353-page study released last week blamed the riots on the failure of every level of government and civic establishment to meet the needs of black citizens.

Yet, today, Dade County continues to struggle with the very same problems that touched off three days of rioting in Miami's predominantly black neighborhoods, resulting in 18 deaths, hundreds of injuries and more than $100 million in damages.

"Even now, two years after the violent civil disturbances, that sense of powerlessness remains," the report said. "In the booming local economy, as the memory of civil disorders recedes, the interest, activities and concern for the black community fades away."

The commission said the continued exclusion of Dade's blacks from opportunities for a better life could lead to further civil disorders.

"There is a particular depth of frustration and despair and even a passivity in Miami that I have not witnessed in other cities," said Commissioner Murray Saltzman.

"The enormous economic growth of Miami in contrast (with) the poverty of Liberty City is such a disparity as I have not seen in any other city," Saltzman, a rabbi from Baltimore, said.

In a sweeping indictment of the private and public sectors, the commission report said Dade County's blacks are systematically insulated from the mainstream in housing, jobs, business opportunities, politics, education and the justice system.

Among the findings:

— Black students are more likely than whites to be bused and be given delapidated vocational education equipment.

— Decades of urban renewal and highway construction have destroyed black housing areas, forcing Dade County blacks into "squalid" housing unregulated by housing code laws.

— Most federal aid money has been used by Miami and Dade County to build streets and sewers rather than to create black jobs and businesses.

— Employment discrimination persists.

The 1980 riots were touched off May 17 when al all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four white former Dade County police officers of charges in the fatal beating of a black businessman.

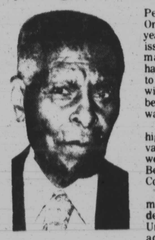
The riots, however, were not primarily a result of that case or others the blacks perceived as unjust, the commission concluded.

Benjamin F. Mays to receive NAACP's Spingarn Medal

NEW YORK—From a pullman porter, Benjamin E. Mays rose to become one of America's most distinguished educators and theologians. As a black man, his struggle was not an easy one.

"In grateful tribute" for his lifetime of service to his country and race, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will award the 67th Spingarn Medal to Mays at the NAACP National Convention in Boston of Friday night, July 2.

The medal will be presented by former Sen. Edward W. Brooke, who is now an attorney with the Washington law firm of O'Connor and Hanna. Brooke himself was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1967 at the NAACP annual convention which was held in Boston.



Dr. Benjamin Mays

Though poor, Mays, as a child, displayed a special gift for learning. "I studied hard and long in high school," he wrote in an abbreviated version of his autobiography, Lord, the People Have Driven Me On, that appeared last year in the third quarter issue of Black Family magazine. He studied hard, "not because I had to in order to keep up with my classmates, but because I had really wanted to learn."

Mays graduated from high school in 1916 as valedictorian. He then went on to become a Phi Beta Kappa at Bates College.

He earned both his master's and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Chicago. In addition to being an educator and scholar, Mays is also an eminent theologian. He is credited with having influenced many prominent black professionals and leaders, in his many years as president of Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Reagan urged to sign housing bill

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Richard Lugar says the $3 billion middle-income housing plan would create jobs to help lead the nation out of recession, and he hopes to persuade President Reagan to sign it.

A congressional conference committee has agreed on a smaller version of Lugar's original $5.1 billion proposal, and it seemed assured of quick passage by the Senate and House.

The agreement is acceptable to me, and I hope to persuade President Reagan to sign the bill," Lugar R-IN said.



Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous To Your Health

If you ask me



Hats off!

Our salute this week to William McDonald, who graduated with honors, receiving an Associate Arts Degree in General Studies, at the Community College Baltimore's 42nd commencement on Sunday.

A school drop - out at age 15, McDonald went to work at Mondawmin Photo Center, (where he is now manager), returned to school in the evenings and earned his high school diploma.

He is already enrolled at Coppin State Teachers' College, where he plans to get another degree in Criminal Justice.

He says he will specialize in counseling juveniles, "so I can pass on to them some of the knowledge I gained from my experiences as a youngster."

Present to see McDonald receive his diploma were his wife, Bernice; their children, Robin, 10 and Jerome, 16; Mr. McDonald's grandmother, Mrs. Janie McDonald, and his stepbrother, Eugene Howser.

Mondawmin Photo owner, Fred O'Neal, and Mrs. O'Neal and their children, were proud onlookers.

Hats off to McDonald.

Please continue nominations to this column's Hats Off Section.

We seek here to note the accomplishments of our young people. Our theory is that too often we adults only notice our youngsters when they perform poorly. Hats off!

707 at CCB

You can be anything you want to be . . . don't pay attention to the tests . . . there are no tests to predict that you can not succeed . . . you can do anything you want, if you're willing to work at it . . .

This was the message Dr. Samuel D. Proctor gave 707 graduates at Community College of Baltimore on Sunday, June 13, at the Civic Center.

The speaker was the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Professor at Rutgers University, and the senior minister at Abysinnian Baptist Church in NY.

To illustrate his point, he eloquently related story after story of younsters he had known who were late getting started and now are successes.

He had the audience in stitches when he told of one student, a NC youth who could not speak English. Today, he is a pilot with a major air line, lives abroad with his family and speaks three languages fluently!

Mother of 12

There are many late bloomers, he noted, citing as an example, "the mother of 12 in your class today." The audience gave sustained applause to her, she is Mrs. Lillian V. H. Elsezy who finished with honors, receiving a degree in Human Services.

Also typical of late bloomers is William McDonald, subject of our Hats Off salute this week. He and Mrs. Elsezy were among grads elected to Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two year colleges.

This graduation marked the last one for President Rafael L. Cortada. He has accepted presidency of a California college.

In her benediction, trustee Mrs. Weptanomah Carter, offered special prayers for students and for the Cortada family.

Charles G. Tildon Jr., board chairman, says a search team will be named to find a successor.

Cuff notes: CCB grads looked good in their maroon caps and gowns. Family and friends were most attractive during the exercises, and there was unrestrained applause as degrees were awarded.

Each of the 707 grads marched to the stage as his or her name was called.

And, despite the heavy rains before 4 p.m. graduation time, most of the spectators were in their seats on time.

People travel

Johns Hopkins University's Metro Center for Development and Planning is holding its international conference in Athens, Greece.

Members of our community in attendance there through July 5, are Joseph (Jake) Hill, recently promoted to Senior Executive Assistant to Hopkins president, Dr. Steven Muller.

With him, his wife, Christine and the Hall youngsters, Adrian, 14, and Sydney, 9.

Also there, Dr. Robert Hearn, associate director of the Hopkins Center, and his wife, Dr. Ruby Hearn, the Princeton professor, and their daughter.

Brenda C. Brisbon, the attorney, formerly of Herring Run Drive, is at her new post in Stockholm, Sweden, Vice Consul at the U.S. Embassy.

She was appointed a year ago, has been studying Swedish at the Foreign Service Institute. (She speaks French and German, too).

Lawyer associates may remember Miss Brisbon came to our town six years ago, fresh out of Duke University Law School, and joined a downtown firm.

Later, she served as an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore City.

She was active in the Monumental City Bar Association. Good luck to her in her new post.

Cuff note: Miss Brisbon is also a graduate of Vassar. She grew up in Poughkeepsie, NY, where her mom, Muriel, still lives.

More people

William G. Sykes is in his new post as assistant to Gov. Harry Hughes.

At his 15th floor office at the State Office Building on W. Preston St., here in Baltimore. He is charged with counseling the state's chief executive on employment and training.



(Moss photo)

AMONG 707 AT CCB — William McDonald, among 707 to get degrees from Community College of Baltimore on Sunday is surrounded by his family. From left, his grandmother, Mrs. Janie McDonald; son, Jerome; stepbrother, Eugene Howser; his wife, Mrs. Bernice McDonald, and their daughter, Robin. For more about Mr. McDonald, a high school dropout who finished with honors, see, If You Ask Me.



TYPICAL GRADS — Photographed at Community College of Baltimore commencement on June 6, from left, Maria M. Cooper, who earned degree in law enforcement; Lelicia E. Powell, whose field is government services; and Linda M. Hawthorne, human services. The college's 707 grads wore maroon caps and gowns.



(Moss photo)

GRAD AND KIN — Wendell David Grayson, a psychology major, struck this happy pose shortly after receiving bachelor's degree from University of Maryland, Baltimore County, (UMBC) June 6. He is surrounded by from left, sister Crystal; cousin, Joanne Gough and another sister, Rosalyn.

TO SWEDEN — Baltimore attorney Brenda C. Brisbon is the new Vice Consul at U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, See details in If You Ask Me.

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