

ARTIFACTS

ART MUSEUM OF WESTERN VIRGINIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ART MUSEUM OF WESTERN VIRGINIA

SPRING ISSUE 1994

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM VISITS WESTERN VIRGINIA

The Art Museum of Western Virginia honors Fritz Bultman, the only "southern" Abstract Expressionist, in a retrospective exhibition **April 30 through July 10, 1994**. This landmark show, *From Mardi Gras to Manhattan: The Abstract Expressionist works of Fritz Bultman*, offers an in-depth survey of the remarkable 50-year career of the late artist, a native of New Orleans. Included in the Bultman exhibition are his intense, exuberantly colorful paintings and collages, mythologically based sculpture and figural sketches. Organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art, the show is slated for a four-city tour.

Bultman was a first-generation member of New York's Abstract Expressionist movement. These artists railed against the restrictive tastes and conservatism of the established art world. Bultman was among the signers of a public letter to the president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art protesting the museum's shunning of the most advanced and daring of contemporary art

work. This letter from the "Irascible 16" caused an uproar in the art world and served as a catalyst for the broader ac-

ceptance and recognition of avant-garde art. *LIFE* magazine featured a now-famous photograph of the signing protesters, who included such modern masters as Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko. This exhibition finally establishes Bultman's important contribution to the development of American Art.

A symposium titled *The Irascible Fritz Bultman* will be held on Saturday, **April 30, 1994 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** in the Museum's lecture hall (2nd floor, Church Avenue entrance). Dr. Ruth Appelhof will moderate a panel of guest scholars speaking on Abstract Expressionism and Bultman's contributions.

Participants include **Irving Sandler**, author of the two major books on Abstract Expressionism; **Harry Rand**, Curator, 20th Century Painting and Sculpture at the National Museum of American Art; and **Jeanne Bultman**, the artist's widow. A jazz reception, sponsored by the Young Art Patrons of the Museum, will be held in the first floor galleries from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Fritz Bultman, *The Hunter*, 1949
Oil on Canvas 60 x 48"

FORTY-FOUR FOUR BY FOURS FILLS FOUNDATION GALLERY

Presented as part of the Norfolk Southern Foundation Series, Virginia Beach sculptor Martin Johnson will exhibit work in the Bridge Gallery from **April 7 through June 26**. *Forty-four Four by Fours* is a large installation that surrounds the viewer with panels that are four feet by four feet square and completely covered in found objects. Johnson incorporates items of all sorts to create his sculpture. Pieces of metal, scrap canvas, plastic, discarded jewelry, wood, old toys and trinkets are collaged and painted to form the individual panels. *Forty-four Four by Fours* has been exhibited at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Johnson was recently awarded a grant that will allow him to exhibit at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.



Johnson's Studio, 1993

Art in Bloom Complements Chinese Porcelain Exhibit

This year's ART IN BLOOM celebrates floral designs by the Ikenobo Ikebana Society and the Hinoki Bonsai. Friday, **May 6, 1994**, the opening reception will be held in the Museum's 2nd Floor Galleries at 7:00 p.m. The event features a Chinese dance performed by Irene Chu and a brief presentation on Chinese porcelain by Tony Digmanese. A selection of Asian delicacies prepared under the direction of Pearl Fu by the Docent Guild of the Art Museum will be offered. Admission is \$10.00.

On Saturday, **May 7, 1994**, a lecture series will be held in the Center on Church Lecture Hall, 2nd Floor, 20 East Church Street. At 1:00 p.m. an Ikenobo demonstration will be given by nationally recognized authority Yukiko T. Davis (Lucille), a senior professor in the Ikenobo School. Her knowledge of the Japanese style of flower arrangement is nearly encyclopedic; her busy schedule is full of seminars at universities throughout the United States. At 2:15

p.m. a Bonsai demonstration will be given by Tony Payne, a member of the local Bonsai Society and frequent award winner. At 3:30 p.m. Dr. Joseph Wang will give a slide presentation on Chinese gardens. Admission is \$5.00 per lecture or \$12.00 for all three.

Sunday, **May 8, 1994**, the Japanese Tea Ceremony will be performed in the Museum's 2nd Floor Galleries at 2:00 p.m. The hostess Yumiko Amano, belongs to the Ura Senke school of tea ceremonies. Assisting her will be several members of the Japanese community. The tea ceremony is free with Museum admission.

The ART IN BLOOM exhibition will be on view from Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 8, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the ART IN BLOOM exhibition is \$2.00. Persons needing more information should call the Museum at 342-5760. These events are generously sponsored by Dixon, Hubard & Feinour, Inc.; Investment Counsel.

Summer Art Camp and Classes

Fun and learning are the themes of the Museum's Art Camps and Classes. This year there are two camps: **Animal Camp, held July 25-29 for ages 7-10** where campers will complete a week-long series of projects using animals as subjects as well as visit Mill Mountain Zoo, and **Camp Mardi Gras, held Aug. 1-5 for ages 10-14** which will consist of festive projects relating sight to the other senses. Camp sessions are from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$68 for Museum members and \$78 for the general public. The Museum is also offering summer art classes including **Multimedia Mania, Monster Claymation, and Painting Techniques for Beginners**. Call the education department for more details and registration information: 224-1223 or 342-5760.

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OF WESTERN VIRGINIA
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Art Van News

The Education Department is currently working with Mr. Peter Lewis of the Apple Ridge Farm to bring the ArtVan to their very fine summer camp program for underprivileged children. The ArtVan site visit will include a highly praised tour of the *Vital Forces, Art of West Africa* exhibition. This popular educational tool will have been installed at over thirty-five schools throughout six counties, and will have been experienced by over twenty-three thousand visitors. These figures, along with the quality of work on display, are a tribute to the Harrison Museum of African-American Culture, local collectors Robert and Alice Szathmary of Roanoke, Acourt Bason of Floyd, and Tom McNemur of Lexington, whose generosity and vision made this exhibition's impact truly significant to a generation of students in our region. We cannot thank these people enough.

We are very pleased to announce that the Art Museum has been awarded a \$2,000 development grant from the Edgar A. Thurman Charitable Foundation for Children for the next ArtVan exhibition. This award and additional support will help with the creation of *A Living Heritage: Native American Artifacts* which will highlight the rich cultures indigenous to our Commonwealth. We are excitedly preparing another "hands-on" exhibit, to follow the popular trend set by *Vital Forces*. Persons who are interested in sharing ritually-used native American artifacts (particularly objects from this region), should contact John Wiercioch in the education department at 224-1222.

ArtVenture News

Colorful Creatures, an artist's menagerie of beasts, is in the ArtVenture Gallery from **June 10 through Labor Day**. The show includes multimedia works and paintings. ArtVenture (an AMWV and Junior League joint venture) is free and open to the public. Summer hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment. ArtVenture will be closed the mornings of July 27 and 28 and August 3 and 4 for ArtCamp.