

Hillsborough Gallery of Arts

continued from Page 44

art gallery owned and operated by 22 local artists, the gallery represents established artists exhibiting contemporary fine art and fine craft. The gallery's offerings include painting, sculpture, ceramics, mosaics, photography, fiber, jewelry, glass,

metal, encaustic, enamel, watercolor, and wood.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/732-5001 or visit (www.hillsboroughgallery.com).

North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Nigerian Artist El Anatsui

The North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa*, featuring 61 works on view in the East Building's Meymandi Exhibition Gallery through July 29, 2012.

The exhibition traces the prolific career of El Anatsui - one of contemporary art's most celebrated practitioners—from his early woodwork in Ghana to today's metal wall sculptures created in his studio in Nigeria, offering an unprecedented chance for visitors to follow the artist's creative development over 40 years.



El Anatsui, *Akua's Surviving Children*, 1996, wood and metal, dimensions variable, Photo courtesy October Gallery

This expansive exhibition traces four decades of Anatsui's prolific career, including his early work making use of traditional symbols in Ghana; driftwood pieces created in Denmark; chainsaw-carved wood work, metal assemblages, and draping bottle-top sculptures produced in Nigeria. Anatsui's metal sculptures - constructed from thousands of Nigerian liquor bottle tops pieced together - transform a simple material into a stunning monumental form. While many of his works make use of found objects - including bottle caps, milk tins, and cassava graters - the artist says that his sculptures are less about recycling or salvaging than about seeking meaning in the ways materials can be transformed to make statements about history, culture, and memory.

The exhibition provides visitors with the opportunity to view not only the spectacular metal sculptures for which Anatsui has received widespread acclaim, but also his works from a long and rich creative practice. Included are paintings and drawings from various stages in the artist's career. The subtle gestures in these works demonstrate the artist's method and practice.

Featuring 61 individual works, *When I Last Wrote to You about Africa* is the most comprehensive retrospective of Anatsui's work to date. The exhibition includes ceramic pots and wall sculptures, monumental floor installations, paintings and drawings, wooden wall and floor works, metal wall and floor sculptures, and large-scale installations. Many of the loans are from the artist's own collection and have never been seen outside of Africa before this retrospective.

Anatsui was born in 1944 in Anyako in Ghana's Volta Region, a predominantly agricultural and fishing area. As the youngest of 32 children in his family, Anatsui discovered at an early age ways to highlight his individuality through a variety of media. His interest in art quickly set him apart from members of his family and fellow students, and his advisors began to encourage him to study fine art in college.

In 1968 Anatsui received his bachelor's degree from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, where he

studied drawing, painting, and sculpture in the Western tradition. He followed his undergraduate degree with a postgraduate diploma in art education and secured his first teaching position upon graduation as a lecturer in the Art Education Department at Specialist Training College, Winneba, Ghana (now University of Education, Winneba). In 1975 Anatsui became professor of sculpture at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he would teach for the next 35 years.

In 2008 Anatsui received the Visionaries Artist Award from the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City. He is also a recipient of the 2009 Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands. Anatsui's work is collected around the world by institutions including the British Museum, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo; Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art, New York; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin; Denver Art Museum; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; de Young Museum, San Francisco; and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle.

Anatsui currently lives and works in Nigeria. He is recognized as one of the most original and compelling artists of his generation.



El Anatsui, *Group Photo*, 1987, wood, dimensions variable, Photo courtesy October Gallery

When I Last Wrote to You about Africa is part of the Museum's ongoing commitment to present work by internationally recognized contemporary artists and to highlight the variety and historical depth of art and artists from diverse cultures and regions represented in the Museum's permanent collection. In 2008 the Museum commissioned Anatsui to create *Lines That Link Humanity*, a wall sculpture specially made for the opening of the Museum's West Building.

The exhibit was organized by the Museum for African Art, New York and supported, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts.

In Raleigh, support is provided by Lord Corporation. This exhibition is also made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions.

Admission to this special exhibit is \$10 for adults.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 919/839-6262 or visit (www.ncartmuseum.org).

Artspace in Raleigh, NC, Features Several New Exhibits

Artspace in Raleigh, NC, is presenting several new exhibits including: *Artspace Artists Association: New Works*, juried by David J. Brown, on view in Gallery One through Apr. 28, 2012; *Chris Hondros: A Retrospective*, on view in Gallery Two, from Apr. 6 through May 26, 2012; *The Quilted Grid*, featuring painting by Keith Norval, on view in the Artspace Lobby, from Apr. 6 - 28, 2012; and *Could You Please...*, featuring photographs by Mary Farmilant, on view in the Upfront Gallery, from Apr. 6 - 28, 2012. A reception will be held for all exhibits on Apr. 6, from 6-10pm.

New Works is an annual juried exhibition for members of the Artspace Artists Association. This is an opportunity for Artspace artists to present their most current and innovative work. All work submitted must have been created within the past 12 months. David J. Brown is a long time museum professional residing in Winston Salem, NC. Brown currently works as an independent curator and arts management consultant. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Director of Art at the new Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, VA, a position he began in 2007.



Chris Hondros, A Liberian loyalist commander exults after firing a rocket at rebel militiamen during a battle for control of the capital.

Chris Hondros: A Retrospective presents the first gallery exhibition chronicling over a decade of conflict photography from the late Chris Hondros. Hondros was an American Pulitzer Prize-nominated photojournalist who died in April 2011 while on assignment in Misurata, Libya. Born in New York City to immigrant Greek and German parents, both survivors of World War II, Hondros moved to North Carolina as a child. After studying English literature at North Carolina State University and earning his Master's degree at Ohio's School of Visual Communications, Hondros returned to New York to concentrate on international reporting.

Since the late 1990s, Hondros covered most of the world's major conflicts including wars in Kosovo, Angola, Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Kashmir, the West Bank, Iraq, and Liberia. His work appeared on the covers of magazines such as *Newsweek* and *The Economist*, and on the front pages of most major American newspapers, including *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Hondros received dozens of awards for his work, including multiple honors from World Press Photo in Amsterdam, the International Pictures of the Year Competition, the Visa Pour L'Image in France, and the John Faber award from the Overseas Press Club. In 2004 Hondros was a Nominated Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Spot News Photography for his work in Liberia, and in 2006 he won the Robert Capa Gold Medal, war photography's highest honor, for his work in Iraq. He was also named a 2007 "Hero of Photography" by *American Photo* magazine, and was a 2008 National Magazine Award finalist.

This exhibition is made possible through the support of the Chris Hondros Fund and the Gregg Museum of Art at NC State University.

Keith Norval's current series of oil paintings are based on city grids, quilt patterns, and comic panels. Working within a grid brings order to the seemingly random choices of subjects. A stream-of-consciousness narrative is formed from the juxtaposition of images, with Norval painting one square at a time. This allows the work to evolve organically without a preconceived finished product. Part comic book, part quilt, and part city grid, these paintings reflect an artist in the process of discovery.

Norval was born and raised in Harare, Zimbabwe. He attended the Savannah College of Art and Design, earning his Bachelors of Fine Arts. Since relocating to Raleigh, in 2000, he has pursued oil painting and printmaking as his full time occupation. Norval works in his studio at Artspace located in downtown Raleigh, teaches painting and printmaking at the Pullen Arts Center and summer camp at Artspace.



Work by Keith Norval

Norval was awarded the Regional Artist Project Grant from the United Arts Council in 2003, has painted murals in York Elementary in Raleigh and at Albany Medical Center in Albany, NY. His work has been shown in Columbia, MO, Vail, CO, San Diego, CA, Greensboro, NC, Miami, FL and NYC. Recently he was selected as the inaugural Artist in Residence at the Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh.

After a 26-year career in nursing, Mary Farmilant finally began devoting herself to artmaking. Farmilant's exhibition, *Could you please...*, presents a series of photographs paying tribute to the ever changing chaos the artists attempts to subdue. She notes that the works "describe the disorder that I see, but my family ignores." The titles reflect the dialogue Farmilant, struggling to manage a household, marriage, career in the arts, a job, and motherhood, has with her family.



Work by Mary Farmilant

Familant earned a Diploma of Nursing from the University of Brighton, Sussex, England, and both a BA in Art and an MFA in photography from Columbia College, Chicago, IL. She has exhibited her work throughout the US at venues including the Indianapolis Art Center, Walkers Point Center for the Arts, the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Griffin Museum of Photography, the Barrett Art Center, Vermont Center for Photography, and the Art Basel Miami Bridge Art Fair. Awards include the Illinois Arts Council Special Assistance Grant, the Illinois Arts Council Fellowship Award in Photography, the Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, the Stuart & Iris Baum Project Completion Grant, and the Follett Fellowship. She has been awarded four artist residencies at the Ragdale Foundation. She currently teaches as an adjunct profession at Columbia College, Chicago, IL.

Artspace, a thriving visual art center located in downtown Raleigh, brings the creative process to life through inspiring and engaging education and community outreach programming, a dynamic environment of over 30 professional artists studios, and nationally acclaimed exhibitions. Approximately 95 artists hold professional memberships in the Artspace Artists Association. Thirty-five of these artists have studios located at Artspace. Artspace is located in Historic City Market in Raleigh at the corner of Blount and Davie Streets.

Artspace is supported by the North Carolina Arts, April 2012 - Page 45

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Apr. 24th for the May 2012 issue and May 24 for the June 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.