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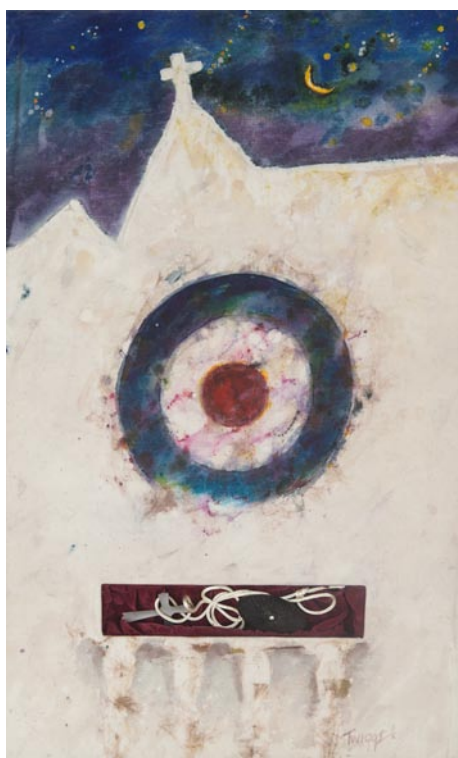
City of Charleston, SC, Commemorate the Anniversary of the Tragedy at Mother Emanuel Offering Work by Dr. Leo Twiggs

One of the nation's leading African-American artists exhibits visually powerful work at City Gallery at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Waterfront Park in Charleston, SC, to commemorate the one year anniversary of the horrific tragedy at Mother Emanuel.

Requiem for Mother Emanuel, a series of nine paintings by Dr. Leo Twiggs, one of the nation's leading African-American artists, will be exhibited at City Gallery at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Waterfront Park, in partnership with the Hampton III Gallery, in Taylors, SC, through July 31, 2016. The City of Charleston will dedicate the entire first floor of the Gallery to display the nine paintings.

An artist's video commentary of the series accompanies the exhibition. Twiggs shares his artistic vision and gives tribute to the extreme grace displayed by the Mother Emanuel family. The *Requiem for Mother Emanuel* exhibition is part of a nine-day remembrance hosted by the City of Charleston to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the nine victims who were slain on the evening of June 17, 2015, at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in the southern United States.

"This series has been the most difficult I have ever done," says Twiggs. "Some of the members of Mother Emanuel are close to my family. No series has been more painful or personal. I want people to look at my works and know that something tragic happened in a Church . . . that a horrible thing happened in a Church that changed lives. My paintings are testimonies to the nine who were slain. But I also record another moment: our state's greatest moment . . . a response that moved us from tragedy to redemption. For one shining moment we looked at each



"Requiem for Mother Emanuel #1", 2015 (batik) 26 1/2" x 16 1/2" Photo by Sailwind Pictures

other not as different races but as human beings."

"From the City Gallery I can see the docks where the ships came in carrying my ancestors," adds Twiggs. "Through the decades many of them worshiped at Mother Emanuel. Hopefully, we will not forget but will remember that moment that brought us all together."

One of the symbols that Twiggs has used in his paintings since the 1970's is the Confederate Flag. The flag becomes a reoccurring symbol in the *Requiem* series as it is splashed across the surface of the Church. The flag morphs from a recog-

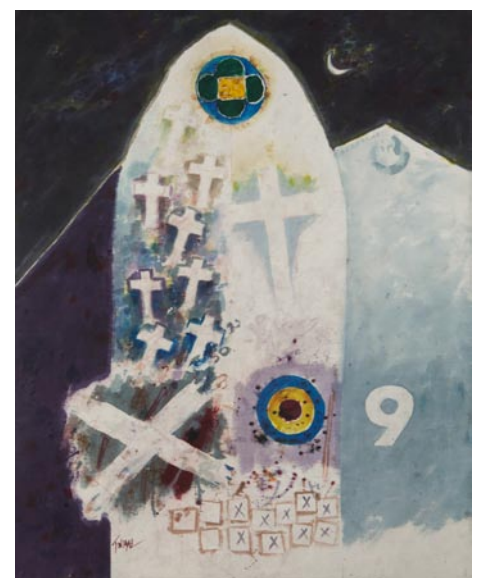
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nizable symbol to a disintegrating form that becomes a cross on a blood stained background and then changes to a cross with the red drained from it. The target and the symbol nine also appear in this series. There is a definite visual transition in the sixth painting as Twiggs recalls the afternoon he entered the Church and stood in front of the stained glass window.

Twiggs produces his paintings using the batik method, an ancient technique of manual wax-resistant dyeing applied to whole cloth. Twiggs manually dyes and dips each piece of fabric multiple times over the course of several weeks to achieve a look that exhibits remarkable depth, tone and texture.

Leo Twiggs was born in 1934 in St. Stephens, SC. He received his BA summa cum laude from Claflin University, later studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and received his MA from New York University where he studied with Hale Woodruff, the acclaimed African-American painter and muralist. He received his doctorate in art education from the University of Georgia and was the first artist to receive the Verner Award (Governor's Trophy) for outstanding contribution to the arts in South Carolina.

As Professor of Art at South Carolina State University, Twiggs developed the Art Department and I.P. Stanback Museum. He was named Professor Emeritus in 2000. He has had over 70 one-man shows and his work has received international recognition, with exhibits at the Studio Museum and the American Crafts Museum in New York and in US Embassies in Rome, Dakar and Togoland, among others. His work has been widely published in art textbooks and featured in several television documentaries. *Myths and Metaphors*, a retrospective of Twiggs' work organized by the Georgia Museum of Art in 2004, traveled throughout the Southeast. Twiggs has been represented



"Requiem for Mother Emanuel #7", 2016 (batik) 30" x 24" Photo by Sailwind Pictures

by Hampton III Gallery since the mid-1970's. He currently resides in Orangeburg, SC, where his studio is located.

Founded in 1970, Hampton III Gallery is South Carolina's longest operating art gallery. It offers the Upstate community and visitors to the area from around the world access to the work of significant national, regional and local artists. With its emphasis on seeking out engaging and thought-provoking works, Hampton III Gallery produces its own exhibitions and hosts traveling shows. Art available at the gallery is selected for visual appeal coupled with a focus on relevance in historical, cultural and social contexts. The gallery also maintains one of the state's strongest artist representations.

The video program was produced by Sailwind Pictures of Greenville, SC, directed and produced by Joe Clark and Ken Beale.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call 843/958-6484.

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be July 24th for the August 2016 issue and Aug. 24 for the September 2016 issue.
Don't miss the boat - it sails on time.