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Turner Center for the Arts

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UUID: 9CFC1FF7-7773-4899-81B5-6172221C79F9

Recommended Citation:

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CITY OF VALDOSTA

and

LOWNDES/VALDOSTA ARTS COMMISSION

Georgia, Lowndes County

Agreement

City of Valdosta

This agreement, made and entered into this 8th, day
of September, 1988, by and between the City of Valdosta, Georgia,
hereinafter called "City" and the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

Witnesseth:

Whereas, the governing bodies of the City of Valdosta and Lowndes Arts Commission are mutually interested in an adequate program of leisure services and Cultural Affairs under the auspices of the City Parks and Recreation Department and Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

Whereas, said agencies are authorized to enter into agreements with each other and to do any and all things necessary or convenient to aid and cooperate in the cultivation of citizens by providing for adequate programs of community leisure services, and Cultural Affairs.

Whereas, the City has established by resolution a Parks and Recreation Department responsible for carrying out the purpose of community leisure services: and

Whereas, in the interest of providing the best service with the least possible expenditure of public funds, full cooperation between the City of Valdosta and the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission is necessary.

Now therefore, in consideration of the premises, the City of Valdosta and said Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission do now agree to cooperate with each other in carrying out the above purpose, and to that end do agree as follows:

Facilities

1. The Mathis City Auditorium
2. Scott Park
3. McKey Park
4. Drexel Park

AGREEMENT

1. The City agrees to provide the following to Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission for the citizens of Valdosta:

(a) ^{USE of} Programming in Mathis City Auditorium for Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission programs. Performances and practice in days to be set by the Parks and Recreation Director. Performances and practice of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission programs and Parks and Recreation co-sponsored group total time for use of auditorium not to exceed 35 days.

X (b) Drexel Park, Scott Park, and McKey Park for an "Arts in the Park" program.

(c) The Assistant Parks and Recreation Director and Director of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission will be the chief programmers of all productions and fine arts programs by the Arts Commission and work out that facility to provide a well rounded program.

(d) The Parks and Recreation Department will furnish transportation of expendable materials to and from designated areas of performance for co-sponsored events.

(e) The City Auditorium Manager and ~~Parks and Recreation Director~~ will schedule all Fine Arts performances in ~~mentioned areas.~~

(f) The City will acknowledge Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission in all co-sponsored activities. ^{Mathis Auditorium}

(g) The City will co-sponsor an Arts Festival with the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

1. The City will appropriate \$4,500.00 for the Arts Festival.

2. The City will have an ex-officio member ^{on} of the Arts Festival Committee and an active member ^{on} of the Arts Festival Committee.

2. The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission agrees to provide the following to the City.

(a) An Arts Festival to be co-sponsored by the City and the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

(b) An appropriation of \$ _____ for the Arts Festival.

(c) Assigned Arts Festival Committee members and one ex-officio member.

X (d) Provide expertise in developing an "Arts in the Parks" program co-sponsored in the Spring of 1989 by the Parks and Recreation and the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

ADMINISTRATION

1. It is agreed that in the event of any dispute arising as a result of the programs being co-sponsored on the site, said disputes shall be settled by the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Director of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.
2. All policies governing said programs shall be written by Parks and Recreation Director and Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Chairman for ratification.
3. It is further understood and agreed that either party to this agreement may terminate this agreement upon giving in writing to either party six months notice of its intention to terminate the agreement.
4. This agreement shall terminate September 7, 1989, and shall be subject to re-negotiation by both parties.

CITY OF VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

BY: _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

LOWNDES ARTS COMMISSION

BY: _____

Chairman

ATTEST:

AND THE
CITY OF VALDOSTA

This agreement, made and entered into this 3rd day of August, 1989 by and between the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, Inc. hereinafter called "Commission", and the City of Valdosta, hereinafter called the "City".

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Commission and the City are mutually interested in the provision of cultural activities to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and the City are authorized to enter into agreements with the other; and

WHEREAS, the City has established a policy of supporting agencies working in conjunction with its department; and

WHEREAS, the City department for cultural activities is the Parks and Recreation;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PREMISES, the Commission and the City do now agree to cooperate with each other in carrying out the above, and to that end do agree as follows:

COMMISSION

The Commission agrees to:

- (a) Include as a member of the Valdosta Arts Festival planning committee a City representative.
- (b) Coordinate scheduling of its events that use City facilities with the Parks and Recreation Department.
- (c) Assist the City in its cultural program development where authorized by the Commission's Board of Directors.
- (d) Account for in-kind services provided by City for grants, funding requests, etc.
- (e) Adhere to City policies when using City facilities.

CITY

The City agrees to:

- (a) Coordinate scheduling and provide practice and performance days at Mathis City Auditorium at no cost to the Commission. The total number of days shall not exceed thirty-five (35).
- (b) Coordinate through the Parks and Recreation Department the provision of additional cultural programs to the Commission when available from the City.
- (c) Provide staffing to the Commission when available.
- (d) Appropriate funds to the Commission to be used exclusively for the Valdosta Arts Festival whenever such funds are approved by Mayor/Council.

TERMINATION

This agreement shall remain in effect until September 30, 1989. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party no less than 120 working days prior to the termination date.

All amendments to this agreement must be in writing and agreed to by both parties.

LOWNDES/VALDOSTA ARTS COMMISSION, INC.

CITY OF VALDOSTA

Roderick P. Pearlman
Chairman

Michael H. Cason
City Manager

WITNESSES

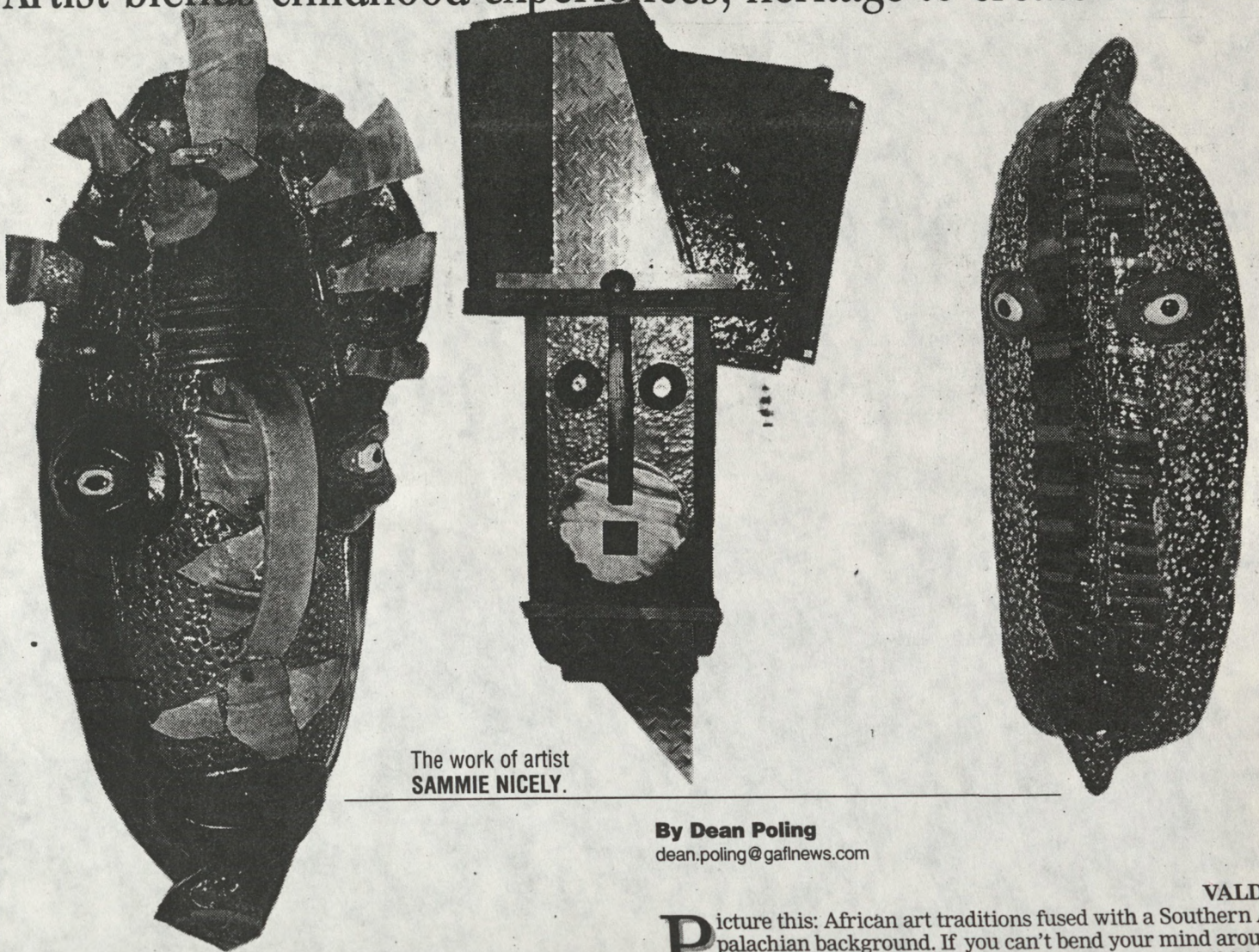
John G. Youmans
Louis P. Lhie

WITNESSES

[Signature]
David R. [Signature]

Africa in the Appalachians

Artist blends childhood experiences, heritage to create his vision



The work of artist
SAMMIE NICELY.

By Dean Poling
dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA

Picture this: African art traditions fused with a Southern Appalachian background. If you can't bend your mind around that one, then check out artist Sammie Nicely's exhibition opening at Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission (see "Gallery" box on this page for reception details, etc.).

Nicely, an Atlanta-based artist, grew up in Russellville, a town set in the Appalachian mountains of eastern Tennessee. In creating his art, he draws from his experiences as an African-American male growing up in the hills of Tennessee. He draws, paints, sculpts, but it is his pit-fired clay masks that blend his influences into a fusion of his African-Appalachian experience.

"As an artist, my work is an extension of myself and helps me to better understand my cultural heritage," Nicely says in an artistic statement. "It is a crucial means of self understanding. I see art as the medium through which such understanding can be attained. I create art for self-satisfaction and as a way of communicating with others. My art serves as a common ground for communication where each person has to bring their own identity into play in order to appreciate my work."

In the best traditions of both Appalachian and African artists, Nicely considers himself a folk artist, which is usually an artist with little or no training. But Nicely has had plenty of training, graduating from the arts and crafts school of the University of Tennessee and earning a degree from Middle Tennessee State University. He has been a curator for numerous exhibits and his work can be seen throughout Tennessee and North Georgia.

Nicely has, however, found a raw and powerful style with his masks. They are imbued with a traditional African motif with an underlying sense of the gravel roads and mountains marking Tennessee. He uses an ancient, pit-firing technique similar to one used by African and Native American cultures. Once the pit-firing is complete, "Nicely applies found objects to the masks, including buttons, bottle caps, metal objects, costume jewelry and treasures he finds in antique and second-hand stores, flea markets and on the streets," according to exhibit notes.

He fuses modern bits from Appalachian life onto a visual form that is thousands of years old. It gives his work a look as old and powerful as the hills but as new as today.

PARRISH: WEAVING THE COLOR OF GLASS

Artist Carmereta Parrish's work also opens this week at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (again, see "Gallery" box for more details).

Mostly self-taught and with residences in North Florida and upstate New York, Parrish combines her life's experiences to create her artistic statements, using her environment to find the means to express her feelings.

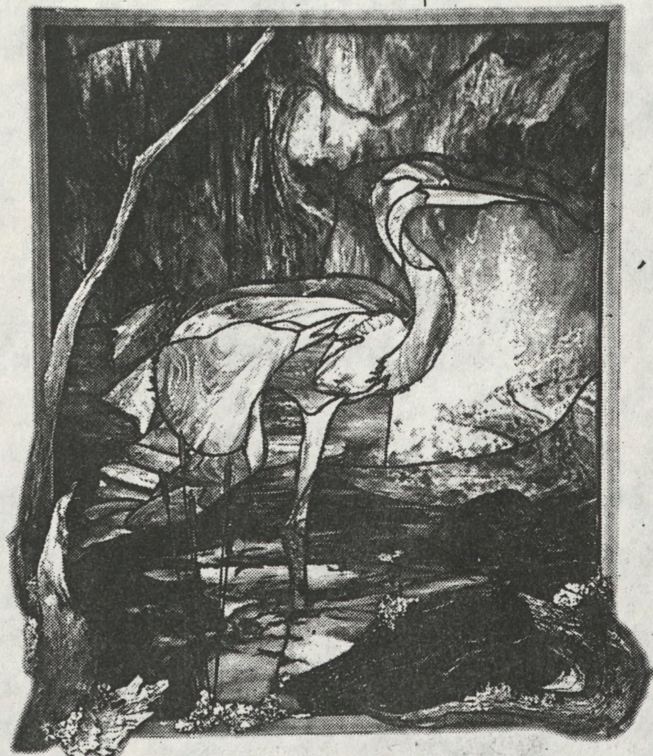
"Art has always been a part of my life," she says in an artistic statement. "... Over the years, putting together materials and ideas to add depth, character, interest and beauty to my personal and business environment. Hunting new ways to translate thoughts and expressions into creative ideas."

From slides, her works look ethereal as if stained-glass were ground into thread then woven into a tapestry. They have a translucent quality that at the same time seem as sharp as glass.

Parrish "paints, does ceramics, wood sculpture, glass art, metal, and graphic design," according to exhibit notes.



The work of **CARMERETA PARRISH.**



GALLERY

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St., hosts a reception, 5-7 p.m. today, for artists Sammie Nicely, Main Gallery, and Carmereta Parrish, Hall Gallery.

The exhibits run through Dec. 10. More info: 247-2787.

eastern Africa

ing is done using tools Tillman described as "exceptional." Most sculpture is in ivory or materials used in the have significant meaning. One piece called "Kembu Spirit"), light wood on the beach while dark Indian Ocean.

a piece of Makonde can be very time-consuming, said Tillman. Most of the work is done through verbal traditions.

u see something you want to barter for it. Some people will spend half an hour to buy. In fact, most of my pieces that I have bought.

in Makonde sculpture someone else introduced me to it. An American worker

talked him into buying one of the pieces, he said.

"I kept the carving on my desk. After looking at the thing a while, it became clear it was very artistic. Out of curiosity, I went to the village and watched them do the carving," Tillman said.

Tillman has no particular favorite among all the pieces, because, he said, each work has a separate story to tell.

Sculptures aren't the only works Tillman picked up while in Africa. One object that fascinates him is a straw water carrier.

"In Somalia, water is the most precious resource. It's amazing how they can make a container using only straw and keep it waterproof," he said.

Another Somali piece Tillman has is a wooden cattle bell used to find camels at sundown. Owners would locate the animals by the sound of the bell, then herd the camels into a *shamba*, the Swahili word for enclosure.

Tillman also keeps a supply of poison arrows, made by Somalis to kill animals for food. He said the arrows are safe now because the poison on the tips has lost its potency over the years.

"They would take a particular type of cactus-like plant, cook it until it boiled, then dip the arrows in. The resulting poison, once in the bloodstream, acted as a muscle paralyzer. Once it reached the main muscle, the heart, well, bingo," said Tillman.

He did more than collect art while he was in Africa. As a financial controller, he worked with the United States' disaster aid programs.

Asked about the major drought that hit parts of the continent in recent years, he said some places fared better than others.

"They have droughts off and on, of course, but the big one really hurt them. Some places, especially south of Ethiopia, had so little rain the drought couldn't hurt them much more.



TERRY RICHARDS/SPECTATOR

Jerry Tillman, former employee of the U.S. State Department and Lake Park resident, holds the first piece of Makonde art he ever bought.

it hard, Tillman said, since they lived "from one waterhole to another."

Working with the State Department for relief efforts was easier in those days, said Tillman.

"In those days if a drought or plague struck, we'd have relief supplies and workers over there in days," he said. He added that the U.S. and the other democratic countries were not in close diplomatic

touch with Ethiopia at the time of the great drought of the early 1980's.

Tillman retired from the State Department in 1972. His work has been exhibited five times at VSC, as well as other schools, libraries, and in places as far away as Indiana.

"People show a lot of interest in Makonde works, especially schoolchildren. I've got ream notes from children. That makes it all worthwhile," Tillman said.

























WAL-MART
ONE HOUR PHOTO

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