



My Name is Curtis Watson Jr.

This is a collection of five years of work given to the Texas
Southern University Art Department. From the year 1965 to 1970.

- ART PHILOSOPHY -

My name is Curtis Watson Jr. My philosophy you are about to read is concerned with what I think, how I think and why I think as I do about Art and its aesthetical appreciation.

I have always had an interest in art even though I knew mentally my mind had not reached that particular stage of maturity where I could express myself as freely as I do now. Being young, my art ego still set itself aside from all other activities I became involved in. Soon I began to combine the two, art and other extra activities. But art has and will be always a dominate factor in my life.

I believe this love and appreciation for art started through my childhood experience on a little dirt farm in Scotville Tex. I lived there with my grandparents. On this little remote area, million miles from nowhere, I found happiness and a sense of security. Each day was a new experience. It was like having a spirit or unknown being huddling over you, protecting that thing you desired most. My grandparents and I lived and worked in the soil. We grew and harvested just about every type of vegetable known to man for eating. I soon became drawn to nature and it's surrounding. This is why, mentally I work with clay as I do now, and why I love it as I do. The black soil of mother earth became our sole preservation. So in all my works of art I try to relate my childhood experience with her.

Now I am a black artist. My past, present and future experience will be black. I know no other experience but black. So its understandable my

work be devoted to black awareness. Black awareness involves total exception of black heritage and culture background. This is why I have such a strong constitution toward Africa, mother country for all black people. In Africa, religious carving are done through geometry figures. Symbols are done as a means of expression. They too use nature with love and security.

Now with my personal love for nature and symbolism, I subconsciously try to create an atsmosphere where all blacks can read and relate to by using geometry lines, forms, and shapes. I do not try to involve myself realistically with figures in proportion and lines in perspection. I feel if I drew a figure time after time for so long, then there should not come close to drawing that particular figure to a perfection.

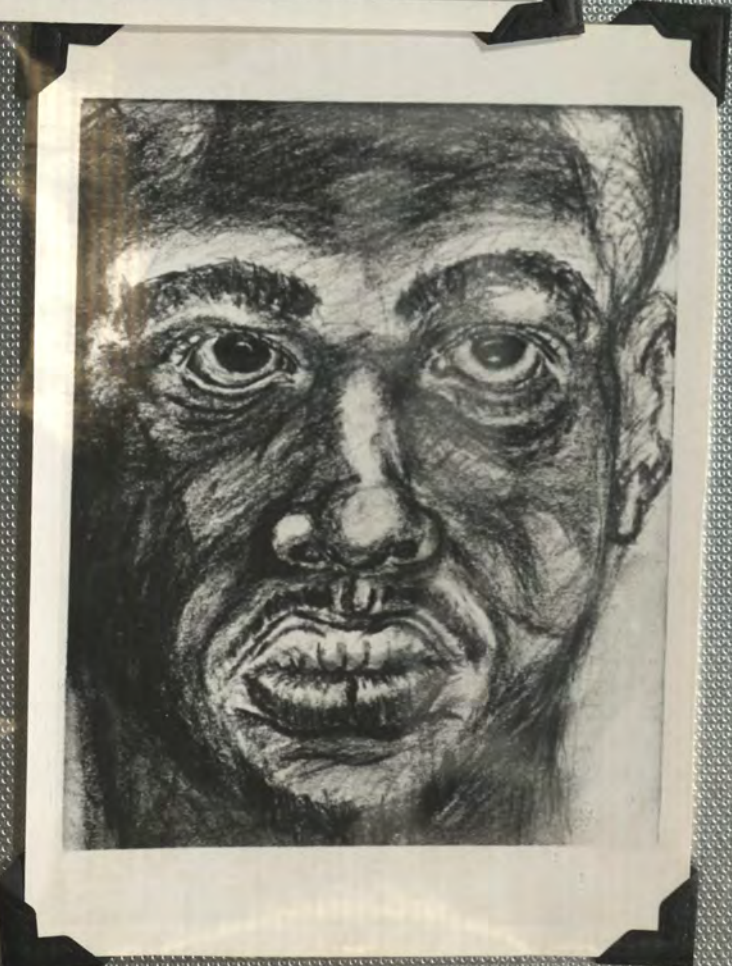
The type of art^rwork best consist of Architecture designs and Geometry forms. I believe in simplification. This means total breakdown of a figure without losing its value. This is usually called abstract art. But there is no such thing as abstract art, for this art has order, and real abstract art without value has none. To break down a figure or a work of art, one must have a sense of imagination. This imagination^{CALLS} for concentration. A very good example of geometry and architecture breakdown of subject matter can be witnessed in my last painting called, "The Creation."

The creation consists of a black king and queen giving worship and bearing gifts to a universal being. This universal being is the bird in the middle. It controls the destiny, power, and welfare of blacks everywhere. The other figures; reptile, ram, grasshopper, beetle, snail, teapot, the hoe and ceramic bowl are all related to it's ancestral past. The bird controls the after life of all living things. This is why architecturally, he is placed in the middle. The king and queen on each side gives the picture

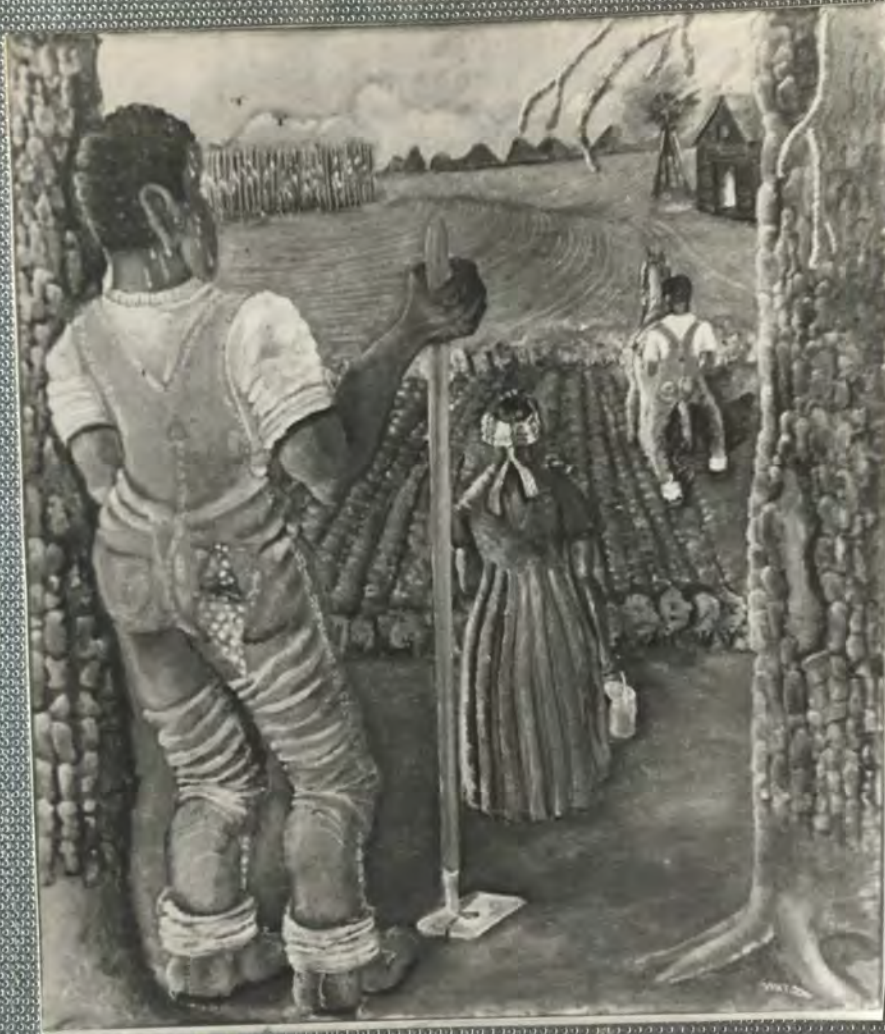
balance. At the base of my second plane there is a supporter, which gives³ the picture and planes strength. Now the king and queen are geometry forms. The king with his staff of authority stands with the power of a proud being. The staff of authority he holds in his hand is a gift to the almighty (bird). The king's robe is geometrically designed to show his overall power as a black being. The queen is the symbol and power of black womanhood. She wears an afro as her status. I am not satisfied with the way I treated the designative quality of the garment she wears. She too is a superior being and should be treated as such. I feel the design of her garment is too simple and does not balance the picture with power as the king does. The beetle she holds in her hand has the power of eternal life, which she too is giving to the almighty bird.

No matter how important I feel my work becomes, the most essential part has to do with discipline. Discipline has to do with personal control over the mind and extra-activities. In order to discipline myself, I try to isolate myself from any social form in our society, and allow no one to interfere in my personal expression. Discipline also calls for important use of time.









The Farmers



Arzalure



Native Boy



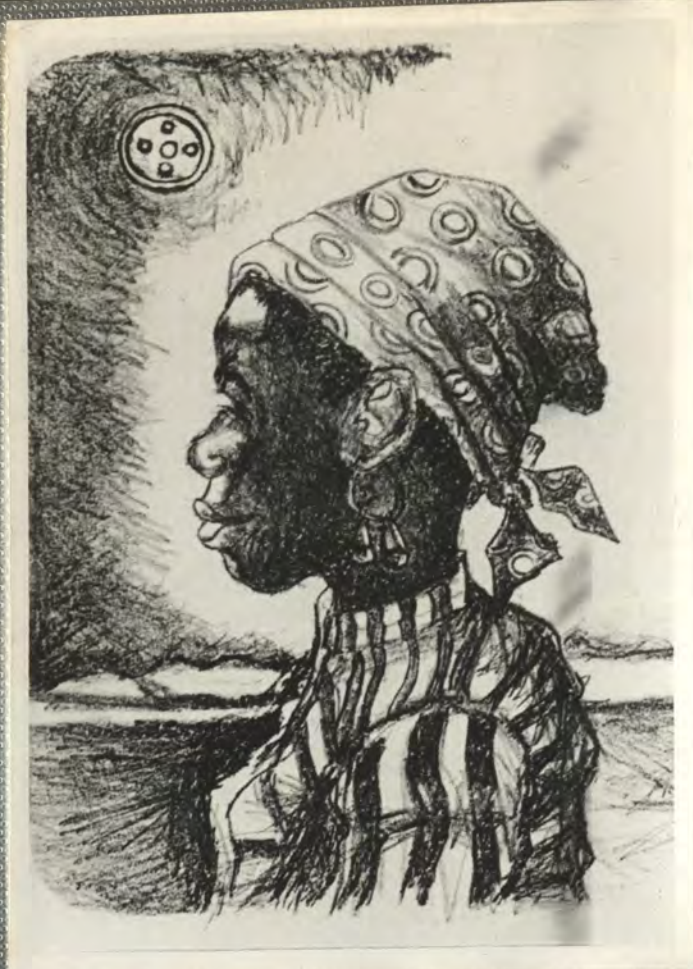
Jewel



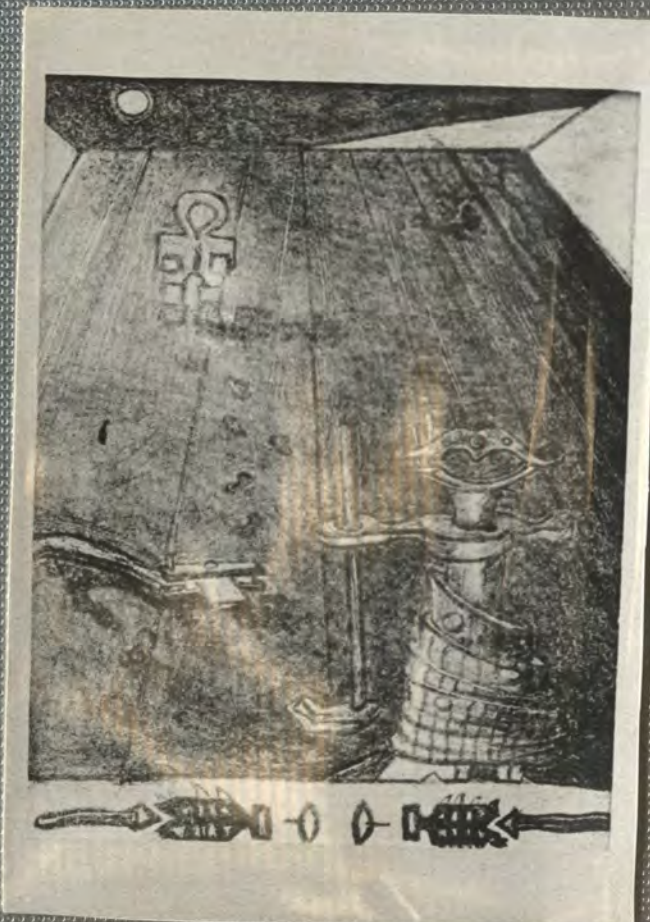
Houses (Study)



Dana



The Head (Woman)



Time



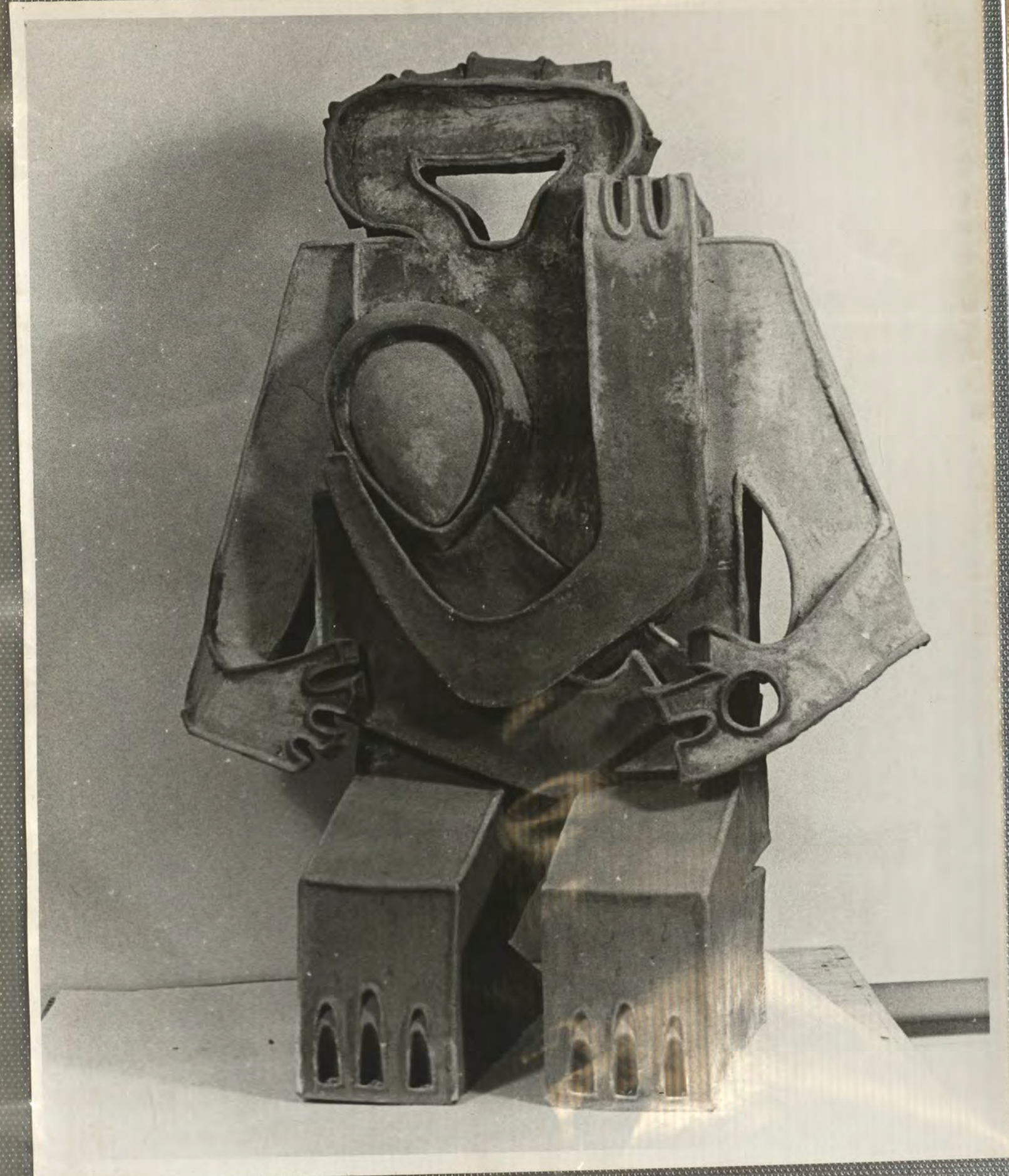
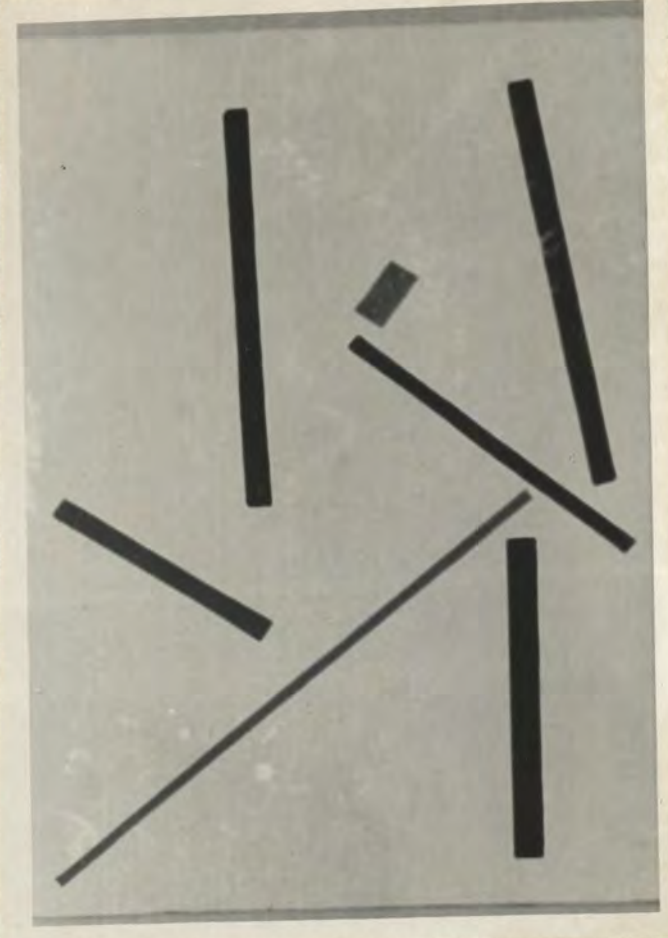
Mother and Child



Black Madonna and Child



DESIGN
Color
Line
Texture
Shape



Mother and Child



Silk Screen



