









## PREFACE

This album is the results of many hours, days and years of labor. It was necessary however, for those endeavors. One must continuously strive for perfection in his work or results of mediocrity occur. This is not to say that one always achieve the goal which he has set for himself, for I certainly have not and acknowledge the fact that I may never. I feel however, that improvement is inevitable if one constantly strive for improvement or perfection in the execution of his work.

The samples of work in this album are compilations of ideas and experiences conveyed in various mediums, techniques and hopefully creativeness. I have tried to project the many facades of my environment and culture which has personal meaning for me, and simultaneously hoping each viewer will not view my work merely as an interesting composition, but feel a certain emotional impact which will help transmit more vividly the message that I am trying to convey. Each composition is the results of a medium used which I felt would best project a particular idea.

Oliver T. Parson



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Acknowledgments are due to the following members of the staff of Texas Southern University's Art Department. They were the basic and necessary ingredients responsible for the motivation and development of my skills to the extent that I feel competent in helping other students reach these same capabilities. This is the total commitment for which the Art Department stands for. Each faculty member acts as a link, which formulates into a chain of knowledge, and this knowledgeable chain in turn is grasped by each student. The student is pulled along slowly until he has developed to his highest potential. The student is then prepared to go into the community and transmit much needed knowledge and skills and help harvest the budding fruits from which he come.

Dr. John T. Biggers, Prof. & Dept. Head, Art  
Mr. Carroll Simms  
Mrs. Theresa Allen  
Miss. Athene Watson

Special appreciation is extended to the photographer and fellow art student, Earlie Hudnall for his untiring efforts and participation which made the realization of this album possible.

Oliver T. Parson

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Oliver Parson

Exhibition 400

Texas Southern University

Philosophy Of Art



## Philosophy Of Art

Before dwelling on my philosophy of art, I would like to discuss the term, art and what the term art implies, and the qualities that an artist must have before he is considered an artist.

The term art has been defined by many people, and yet many so called art critics cannot agree what really constitute a work of art. It is generally agreed however that art is the end result of the manipulation of creative skills. The one who posses the creative skills is the artist. I will now attempt to define the term, artist. The artist is a combination of the laborer and craftsman. But first let me define laborer and craftsman. The laborer is one who works with his hands. The craftsman is one who works with his mind and hands. The artist is one who works with his mind, his hands and his heart. The artist is able to work effectively however, only if he has developed a philosophy of what art means to him. A philosophy gives an artist a direction to go in or pursue. It helps the artist establish a meaning for his work. But so much for what a philosophy stands for to a given artist. I will now try to convey my philosophy of art.

It is my philosophy that the creation of any idea, or actual experience which convey a message in some medium or form with aesthetic value, constitute a work of art. Regardless of how controversial a work of art is, it is still a work of art if aesthetic value is present. This leads me to the situation and struggle of the black artist. Many times he is critized because of the subject matter which he often chooses to convey his ideas which are often

socal. These ideas often relates to the conditions which exist in his environment. This form of expression is one of the strongest sources of insperation which ultimately developes into a work of art, because of the personal experience envolved. With a little rationalization on the viewers part and some knowledge of art history one will recall the renaissance and other periods of history. The type of clothing and other noticeable events can be seen in many of the old master's work. In other words it is one way of recording events which have taken place in history. The same principle is true today. Many contemporary artist are capturing many of today's events and developing them into powerful works of art. Therefore, decades and centuries from now, newer generations will look upon today's art and see what was taking place during this period of history. The more creative or artistic the artist project his work, the more powerful it will be. When I speak of creativity or artistic values, especially when approaching a realistic composition, the works must be handle in a way that cannot be duplicated by a camera. However, if a work is produced and represent naturalistically the original source of insperation, the work must have personal meaning for the artist. In fact any work of art produced by an artist should have personal meaning for him. I also feel that a work of art should show discipline. Discipline expresses maturity.

The preceeding opinons concerning a philosophy of art, eventhough they are a personal summation, on what constitute a work of art, are felt to be a basic and sound philosophy.



PAINTINGS

in

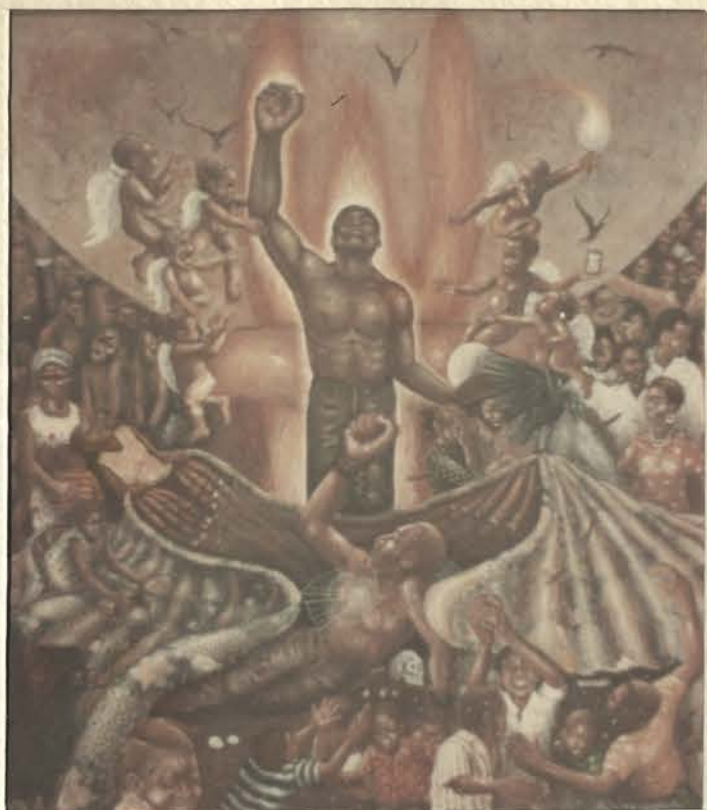
Color

and

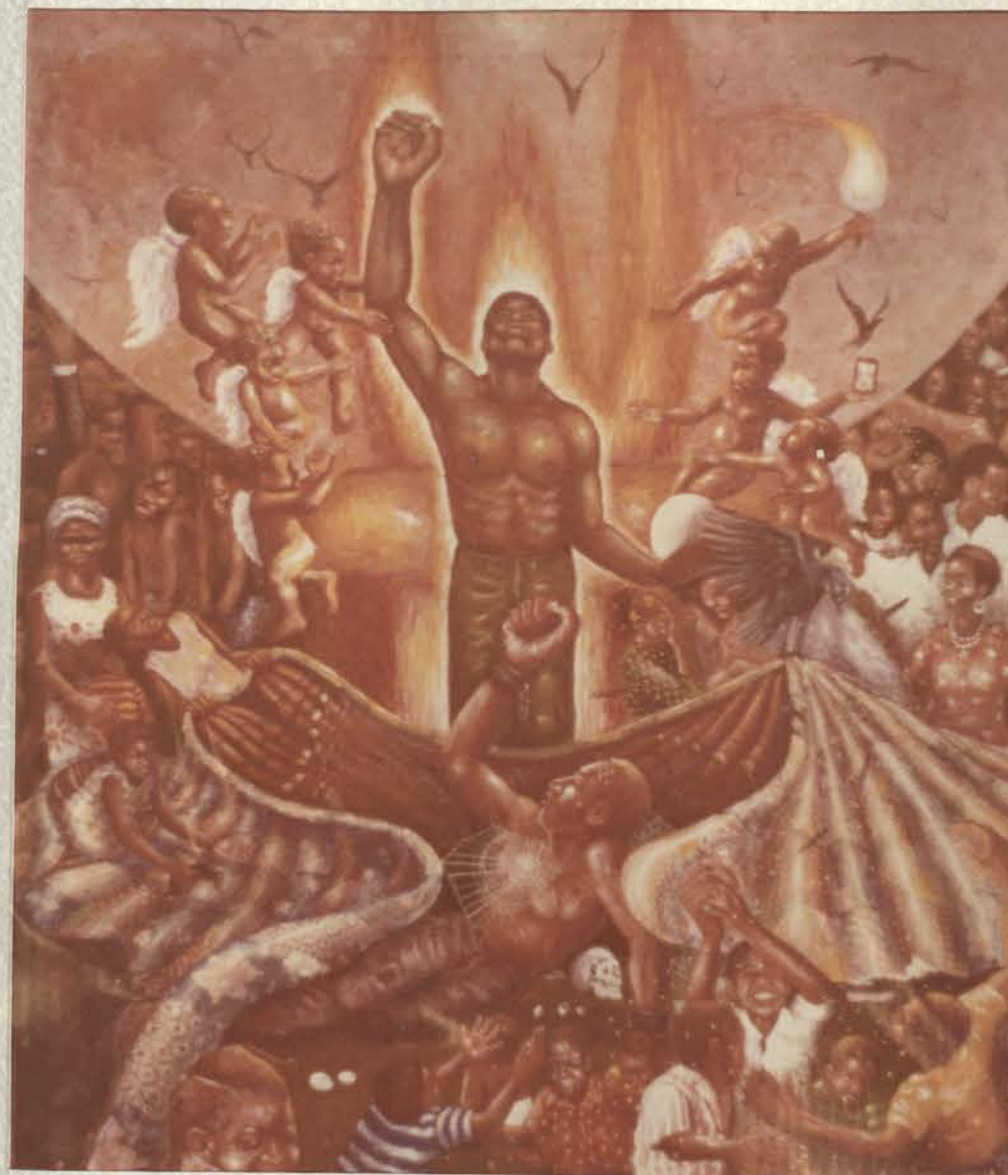
Black and White







"The Unveiling"







"Flower Girl"





"Black and Beautiful"



"The Laughing Ladies"



"Every First Sunday"



"Still Winning"





"The Railroad Tracks"



"My Brother's Keeper"

"Still Waiting"



"The Great Race"



"Woman"



"Oh Happy Day"



"Fruit"



"Flower Girl"







"The Great Race"



"The Unveiling"



"The Railroad Tracks"



"Every First Sunday"



"My Brother's Keeper"

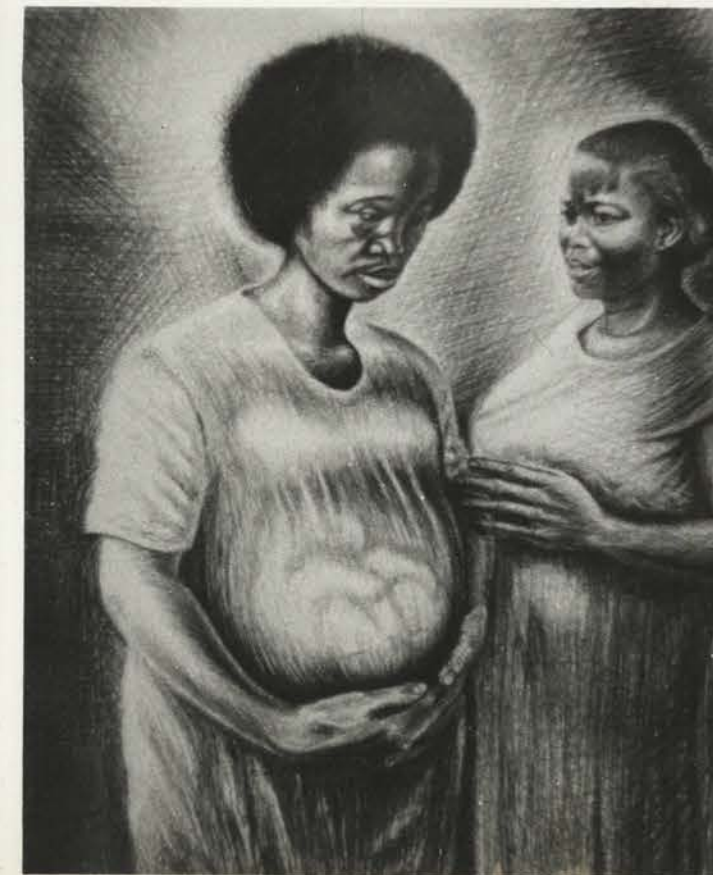


"Still Waiting"

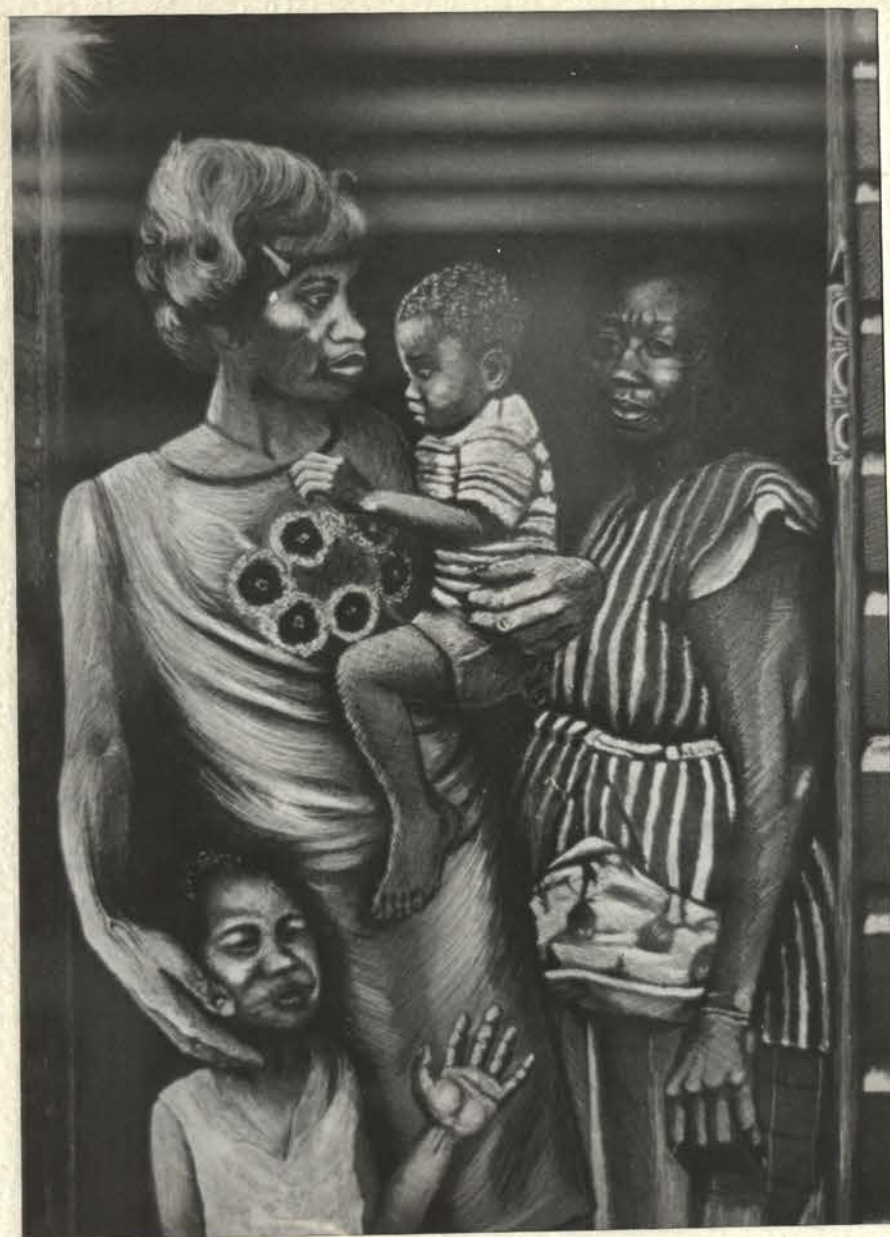
"Suffer Little Children"  
\*First Prize  
Interfaith Workshop  
1969



"Unwed Mother"

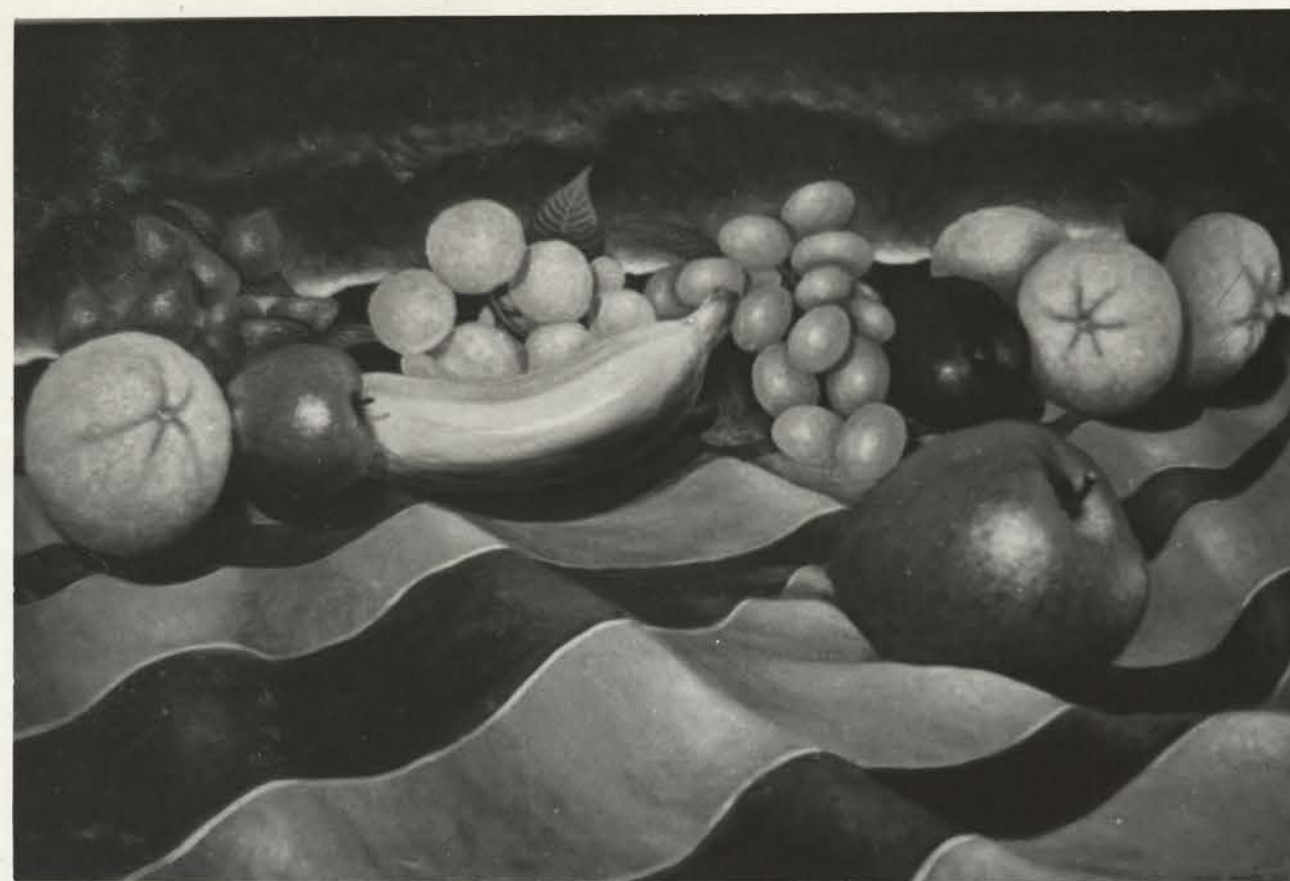




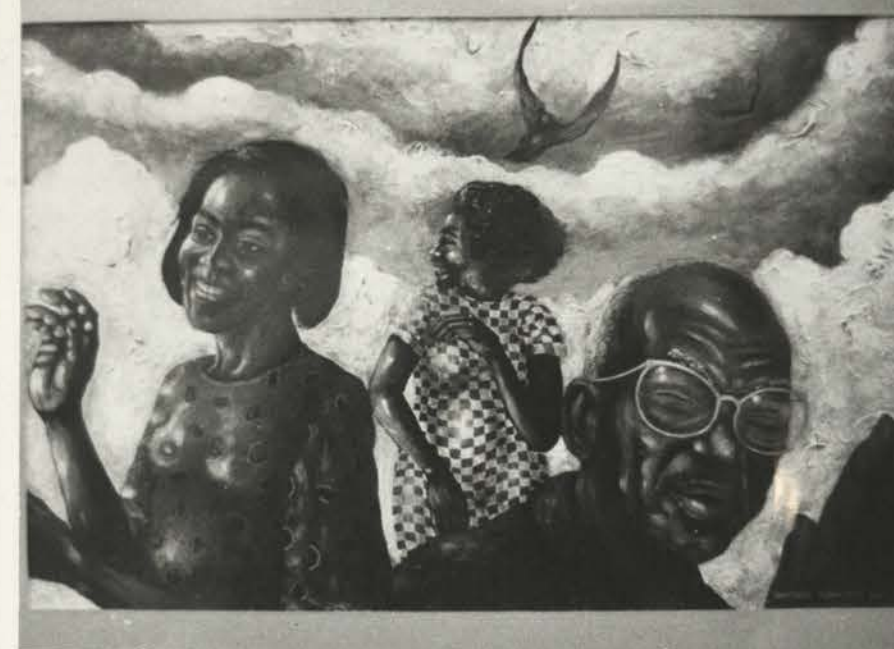


"Unity"  
\*First Prize  
Interfaith Workshop  
1968

"Fruit"

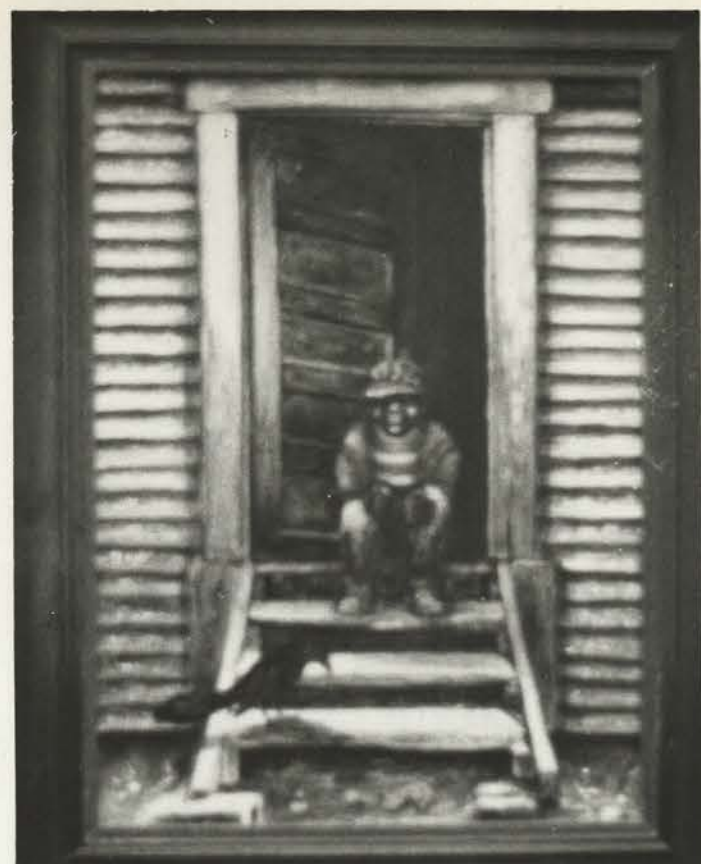


"Oh Happy Day"





"Still Winning"



"The Laughing Ladies"



"The Seed of Life"



"The Red Roof"



"Brother Against Brother"



FIRST AWARD  
DIMENSION HOUSTON V  
1970

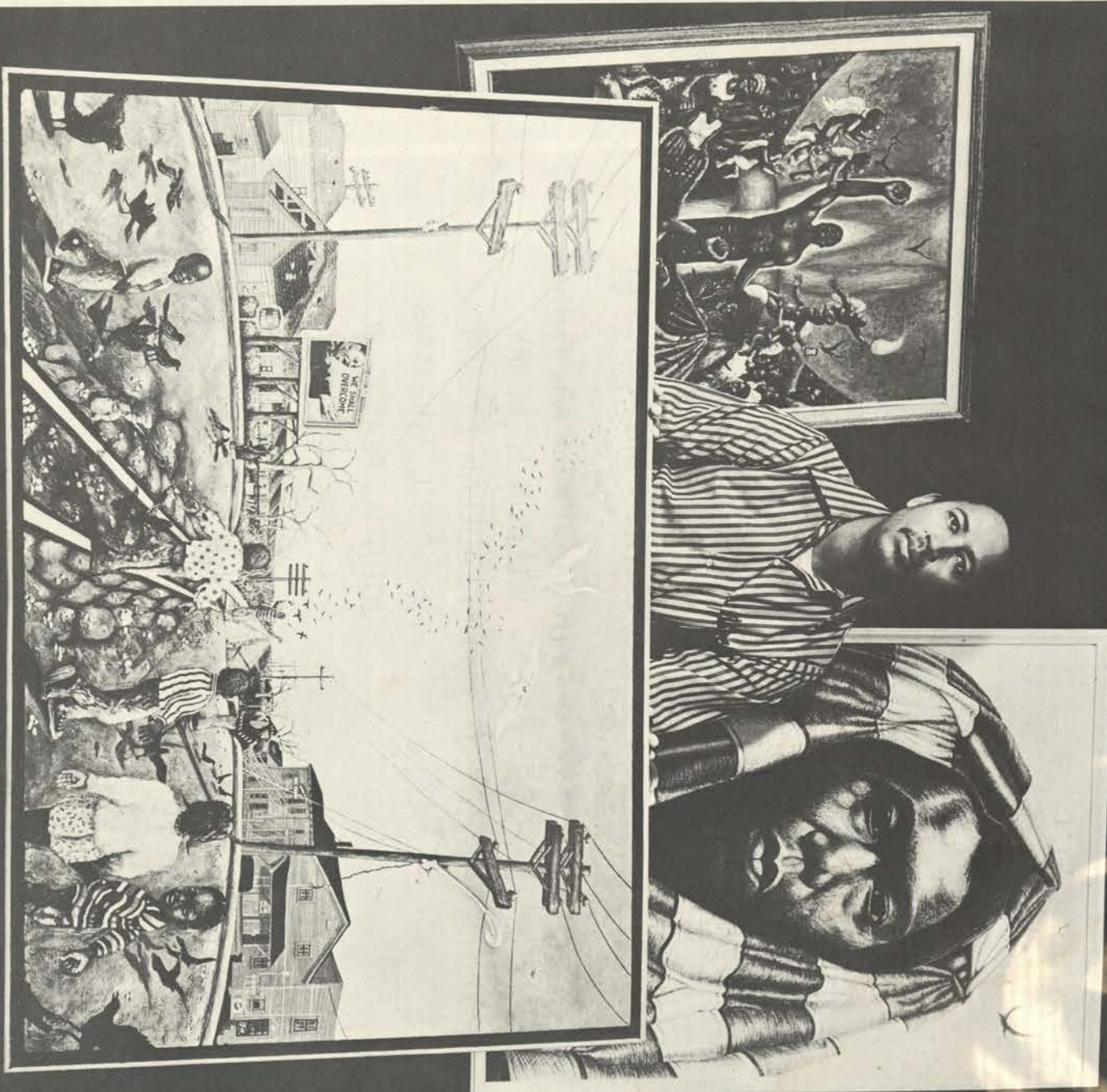
OLIVER PARSON  
for his painting  
"BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER"

Donor: The Art League of Houston  
\$300.





oliver parson



"The Crucifix (Judas)"





GRAPHICS  
in  
Color and Black and White

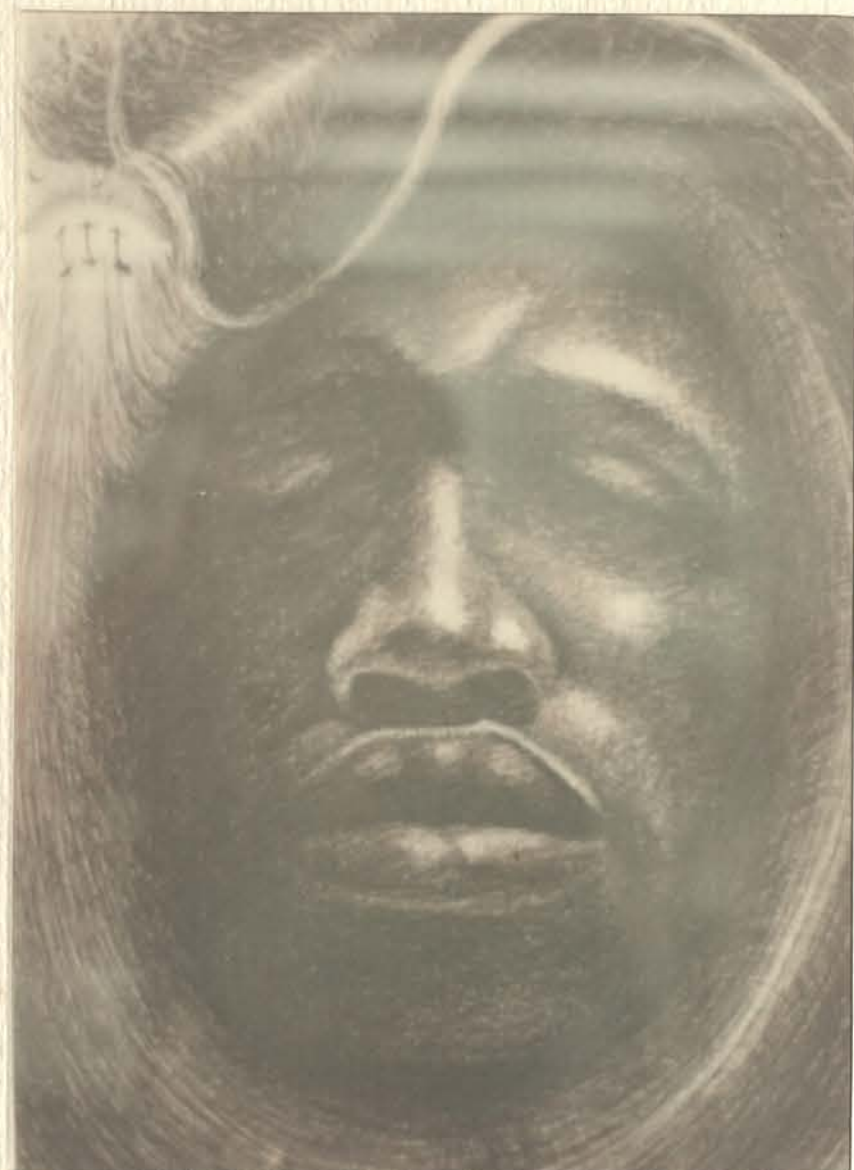


"Wings Over Jordan"

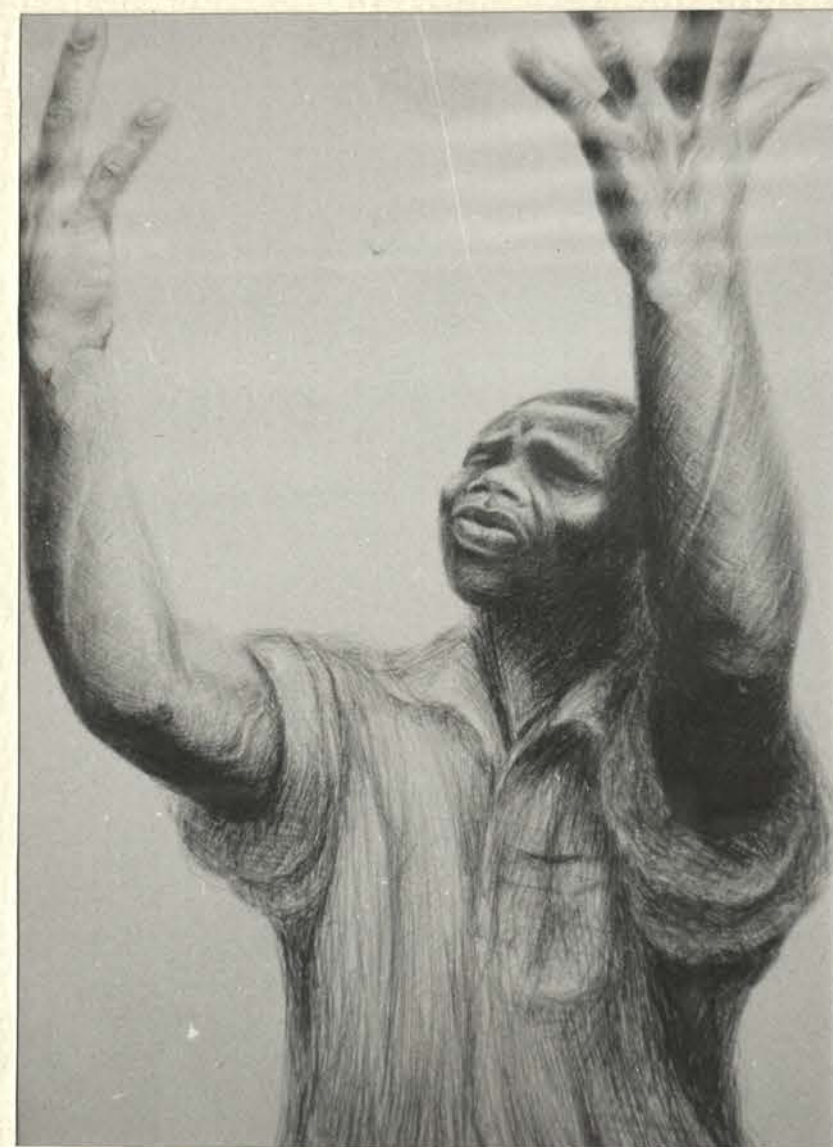


"Turmoil"





"The Crucifixions"



"Supplication"





"Unity"



"Slumber"

"Storm"



"Flight"





"Black Madonna"



"Fertile"

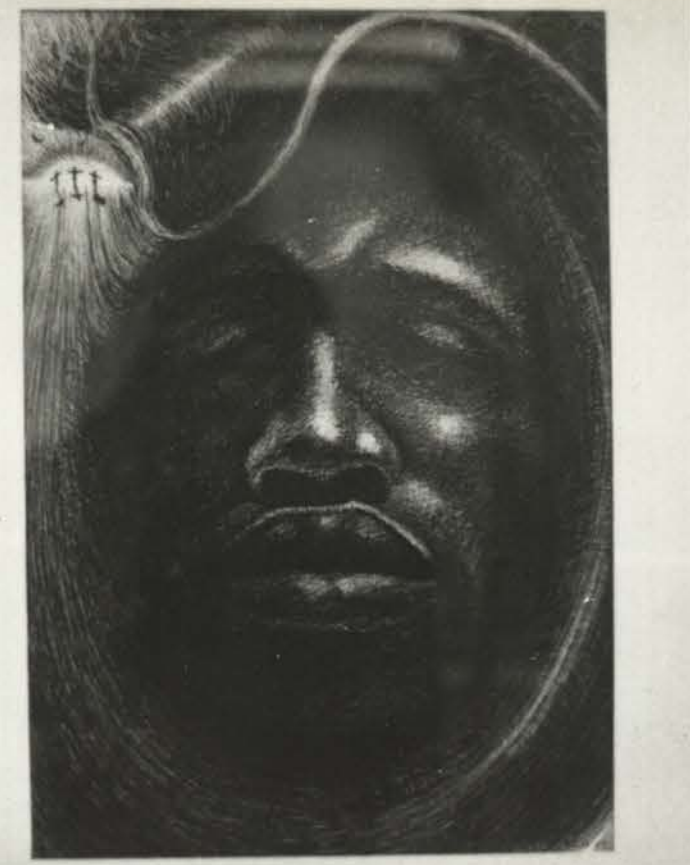
"We're A Winner #1"



"Stealing an Education"

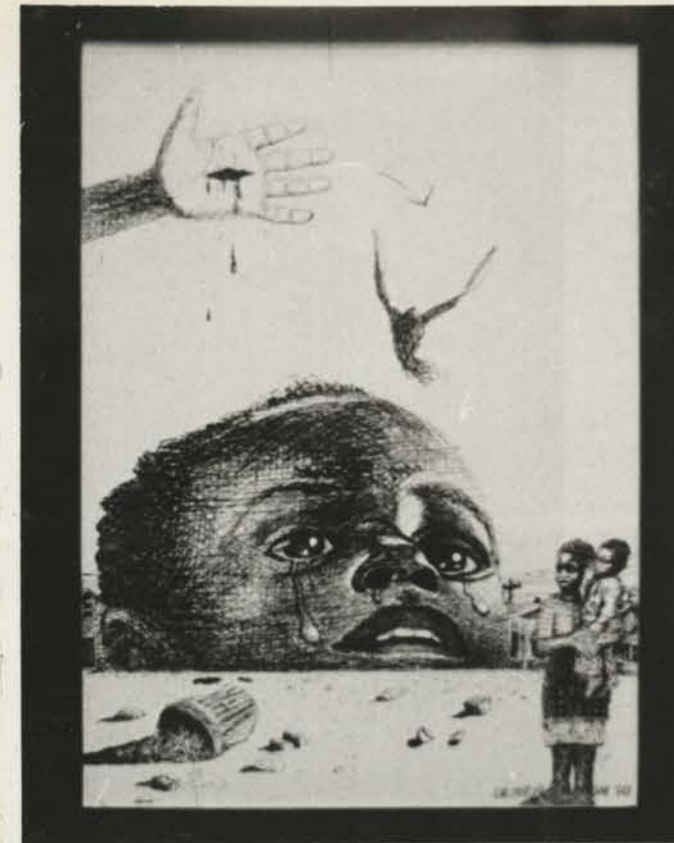






"The Crucifixions"

"Turmoil"



"The Ghetto Child"



"Two Blackbirds"

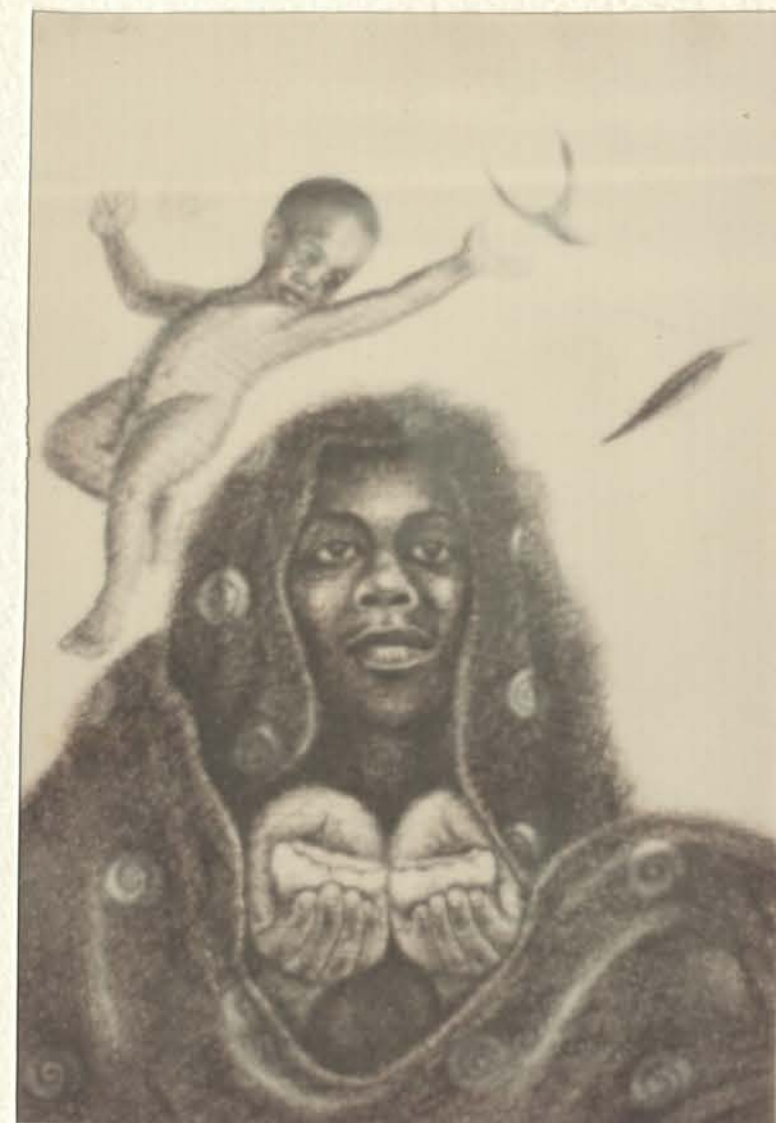




"Flight"



"Twyla"



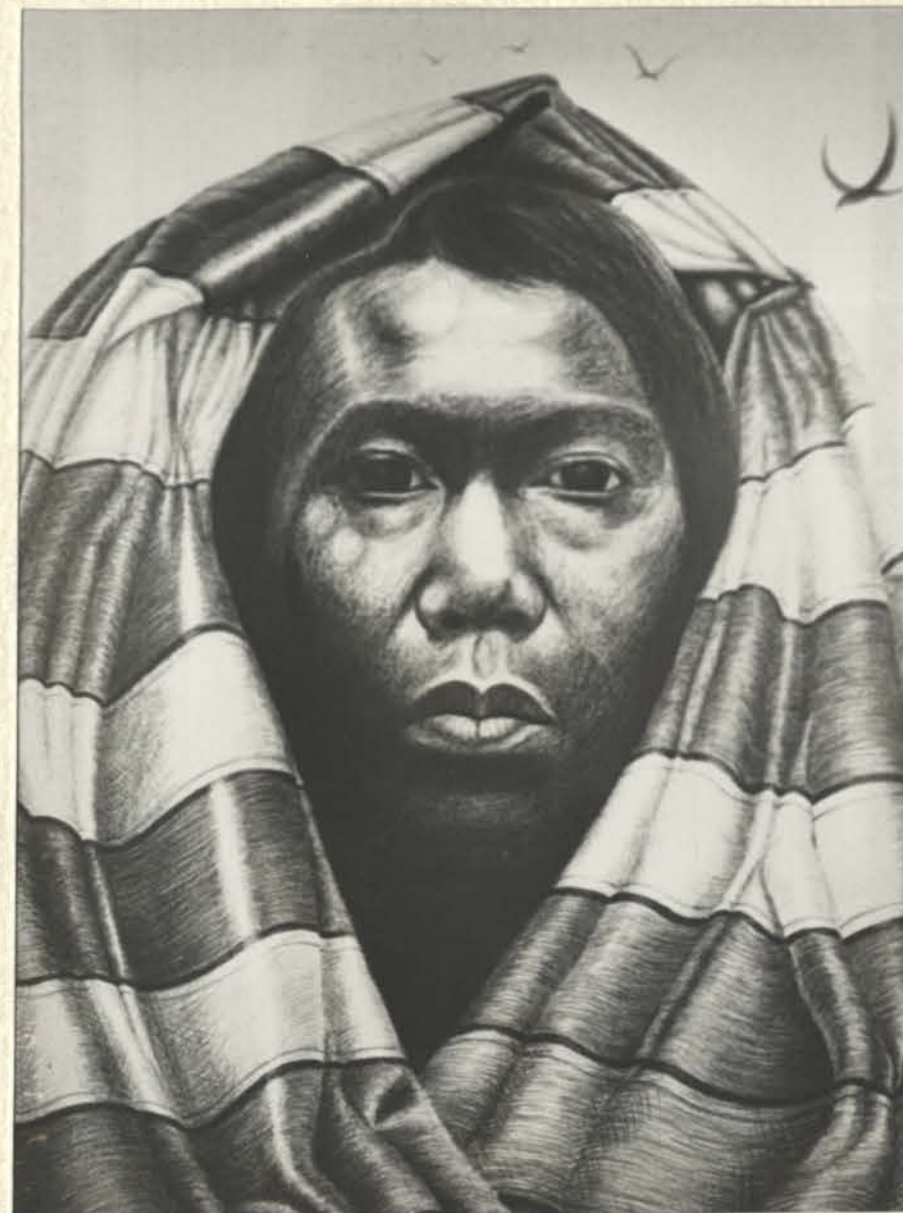
"Black Madonna"



"Storm"



"Meditation"



"Head"



Sculpture

Ceramics

in

Color and Black and White







"Mother and Child #1"



"Mother and Child #2"





Pots and Freeforms



Pots and Freeform





Pots and Freeform



Coffee Set



Tea Set



Freeforms







Pots and Freeforms

