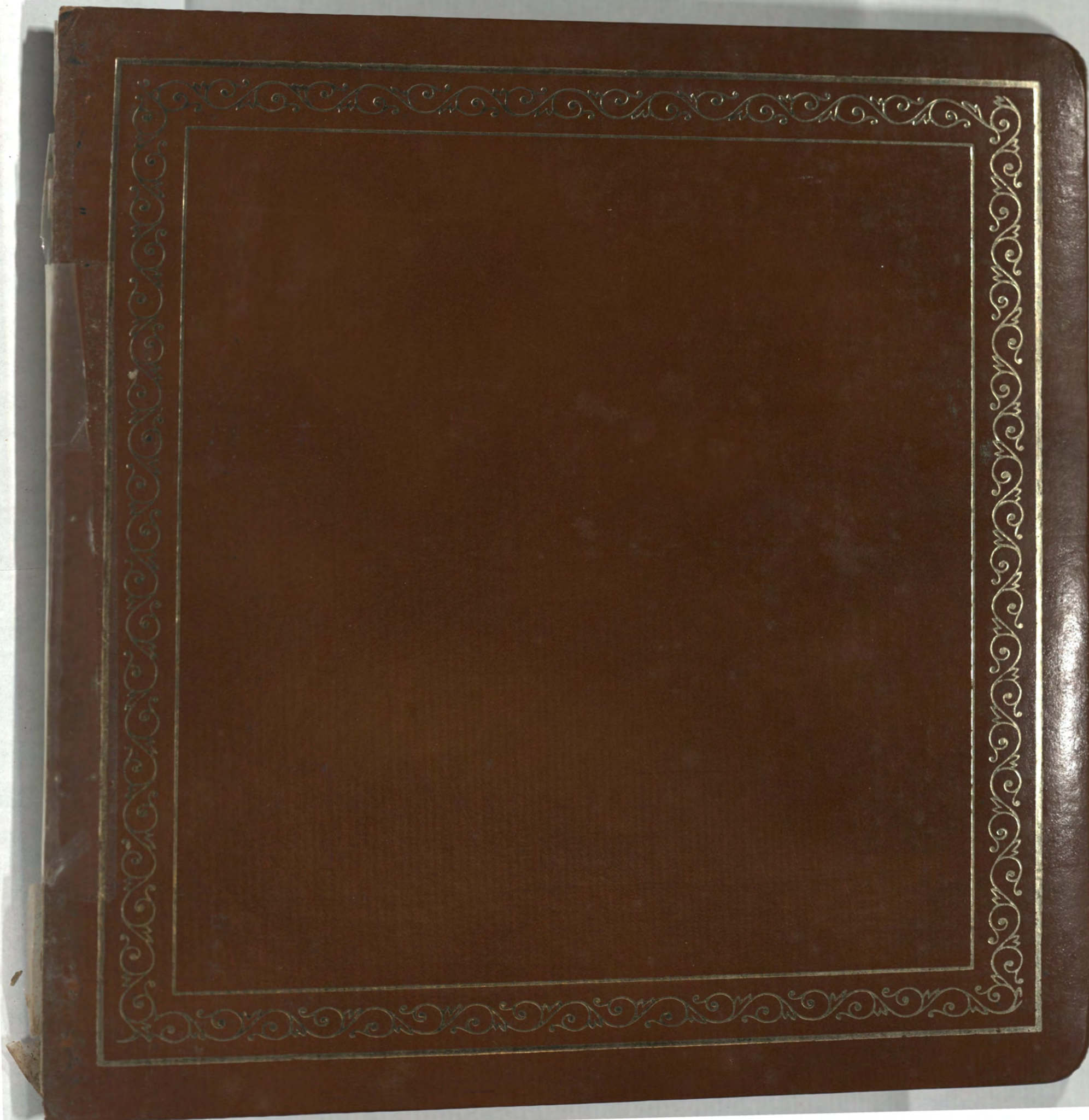






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Philosophy of Art

In Partial Fulfillment
of the requirements for
Senior Exhibition
for
Texas Southern University

Calvin Lee Hubbard

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Introduction

The artist is an individual who is confronted with a difficult job in our present society. His ultimate aim is to understand his contemporary life and to create order in his art work that will coincide with his time.

In my art work my primary aim is to portray social conflict, peace, strength, time and happiness. In an effort to do this I have used creative forms and arrangements to symbolize these. The arrangements which I have used are my own true experiences from my environment.

Nature, to me, is that part of our environment that consist of living matter such as the trees, flowers and water. I have been inspired many times to use natural forms in my art works, only to say or suggest that I am a part of nature trying to communicate with my environment.

Philosophy of Art

To understand the symbolism expressed in my mural the individual must understand that the idea is an imaginary one. I use symbols that we all can see and understand and some that come from my own imagination.

The symbols of space ships simply means that this is man's transportation into outer space. We must consider the fact that someday man will venture into space if earth survives long enough. My imagination leads me to believe that there must be or will be some kind of control now, and man will bring about a need for a new law when he ventures into outer space. To make this clear in my mural, I used a symbol to express a united control. The long blue form that flows throughout the mural represents the control of knowledge, the control of man and the control of social conflicts. The hat on this form expresses universal peace. The hat has a plow with the sword embedded in it, that symbolizes peace that was created during the time of Isaiah. The book symbolizes the survival of law during the time of Justinian, Moses and Hammurabi. The idea here is to express the fact that new environments bring about new ideas. The yellow form symbolizes that there is a law very similar to Justinian, Moses and Hammurabi, which has survived in outer space, but we must use our own imagination to see the idea of this expression.

When an individual understands that world peace must be considered in outer space flights, we think of Kennedy and Khrushchev as two great symbols. To express the fact that Kennedy's and Khrushchev's thinking will have to agree, I placed them together to symbolize further that a new law of the universe must be created. The symbol of united control forms into bars to bring Kennedy and Khrushchev together until they can make a law that will maintain world peace. The bars symbolize imprisonment. The figures in between the bars behind Kennedy's and Khrushchev's profiles symbolize man's cry for freedom and for a new law of the universe.

The large green form is a symbol for mother. Her fertility expresses the fact that some type of life will continue to survive. The form also symbolizes frustration and anxiety. It has been said, "The very existence of a frustration or conflict and the particular way a man responds to it may subject him to the punishment or the threats of society, or to painful feelings of guilt, or to the threats of loss of self-esteem, all of these threats or punishments of society arise in him feelings of anxiety." He further states that, "The person is placed in a new conflict between the need to express the aggression and the fear of doing so. Under these circumstances there must be displacement of aggression to a safer target. Such displaced aggression, however is not likely to provide the full relief that would be obtained in attacking the actual source of frustration."

Society may place strong prohibitions on the expression of aggression in any form." My idea here is to express a social conflict and show that man's society will effect his actions. I feel that the female figure is a good form to use to express my idea of a social conflict and survival where ever it may be.

The moon has been used to symbolize universality, but no one knows its true meaning. In my mural I use this moon to express the fact that I am the creator and by using my facial features I project the Negro into the struggle to understand and explore outer space with all humanity.

In my sculpture called "Figure with Turtle and Bird", I have tried to recreate what nature has already suggested to man. The turtle is the oldest known reptile. He is unique in that he has survived through the test of time. It is believed that the bird is the species which evolved from the reptile. He has been a strong inspiration to man. The bird has been placed high on the sculpture to symbolize that he flies high. In doing so, he is further away from the worldly things that he tends to have trouble with. He is able to sing and look down upon his environment.

The sculpture has a universal meaning. It expresses a closeness of the reptile and the bird. Therein, the unique closeness of the earth to the species is portrayed. The sculpture has a meaning for all of us. The turtle has a meaning for each one of us. The bird also has this meaning.

These meanings are usually the same or similar. In my sculpture, I have tried to use the two as something which has a meaning for mankind.

The word, enlightenment, may mean that man has a way of controlling order in nature to improve his way of life. He seeks to create order in all things that nature does not provide for. The enlightened man's everyday life will tend to be much different from that of the uneducated man. The enlightened man is well organized, the uneducated man is not well organized. The American society has put a tremendous amount of order in our environment. We thus have to say that we are a highly enlightened society, but it is a complicated one, thusly, such an elaborate society composed of so many backgrounds of peoples and cultures necessitates many knowledges be acquired, and to become fully or totally educated is to reach one horizon and find always another.

Conclusions

Through the use of symbols, I have attempted to develop a philosophy that will penetrate the minds of individuals of all nations. This philosophy is mainly concerned with the expression of universal ideas. In my mural, I have made Kennedy and Khrushchev symbols of this universal meaning. The bird and the turtle are the symbols of this universal meaning. The bird and the turtle are the symbols used in the sculpture. Basically, sculpture is a creative expression through which I have tried to communicate with symbolism a universal meaning to man a small aspect of himself and his natural environment.





J.T.B.A.C.

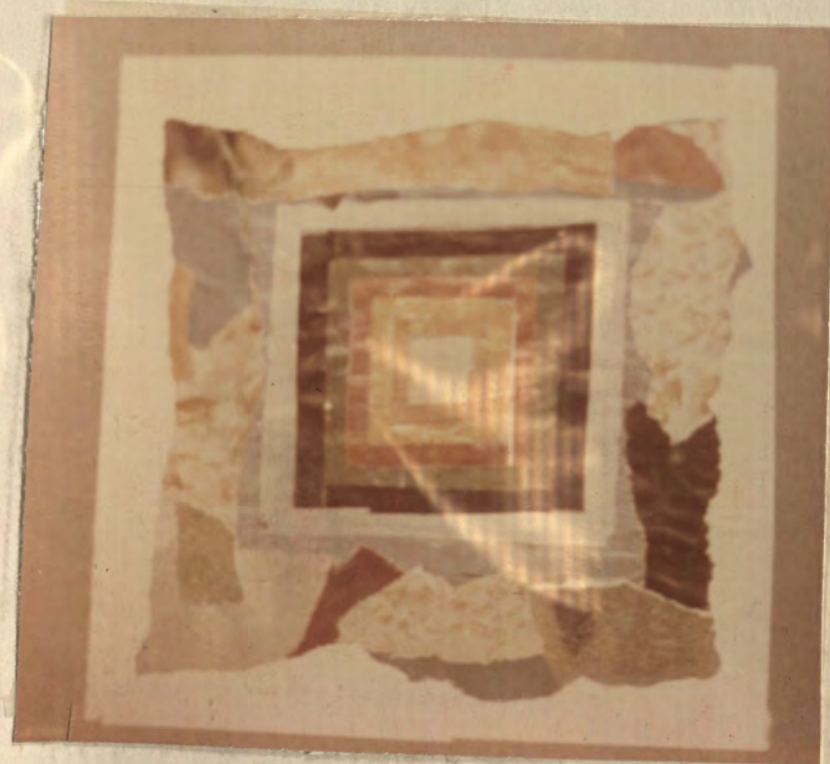














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