



B² Fine Art Gallery/Studios
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Black Aesthetic Exhibition Abstract Expressionist Master Painters – 1930-1961

TACOMA, WASHINGTON USA – October 4, 2014/ – The Black Aesthetic Exhibition featuring original works by noted African American Master abstract expressionist artists from 1930-1961, associated with the Philadelphia Pyramid Club 1937, Spiral Group 1961, and the Pacific Northwest 1930-1950. The exhibition title was borrowed from the 1971 book by Addison Gayle.



The Black Aesthetic Exhibition :: October 4, 2014 – November 29, 2014

Romare Bearden (1911 –1988) - Artist. Writer. Activist.

During the 1950s, he painted more abstractly, this theme reemerged in his collage works of the 1960s. Founding member of The Spiral Group - formed to discuss the responsibility of the African-American artist in the struggle for civil rights.

Paul Dusebury (1935 – 1998) - Artist. Musician. Teacher.

"Developed his impressionistic painting style depicting atmosphere vistas of Puget Sound waters and landscapes." - Marianne Hanson

Humbert Howard (1905 – 1990) - Artist. Curator.

A landscape painting created in the 1930s was one of two selected for the exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair in New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. In 1940, Howard became the Director at The Pyramid Club in Philadelphia.

Richard Mayhew (1934-) - Artist. Jazz Singer. Professor. Activist.

"Critics admired his use of light, color and form, as they compared him to Claude Monet and Winslow Homer."
- Caitlin Forney, Spring 2008

Milt Simons (1923 – 1973) - Artist. Poet. Dancer. Educator. Musician. Composer.

"He forged a career that merged expressionistic painting, jazz music and teaching art to inner-city students."
- Shelia Farr, Seattle Times Art Critic, 1999

Thelma Johnson Strett (August 12, 1911 – May 1959) - Artist. Dancer. Educator.

Gained prominence in the 1940s for her art, performance and work to foster inter-cultural understanding and appreciation.

About the Book: The Black Aesthetic is among the most important Afrocentric resources dedicated to all facets of the Arts (Theater, Dance, Poetry, Painting & Sculpting, Art History, Writing) offering an unapologetic Black Aesthetic, Afrocentric, Black Nationalist point of view which began to surface during the Black Power Movement in the late 60's, early 70's.

Organized by author, poet, editor, Addison Gayle; the Black Aesthetic leads the reader through complex summaries offered by a collection of the leading African American Arts critics, artists, poets, writers, historians, thinkers, commenting on or contributing to the Black Aesthetic.

The resource of names, ideas, recollections offered by each chapter cover early periods of the 19th century through the book's publication in 1971, making this book "a first edition reference manual for the ages", suited for Artist & Art Professionals, Art purveyors & collectors, African American Studies, Intellectuals, families with children, alike". – Gary Boone, B² Gallery Director / Curator.

About the Editor: Addison Gayle Jr. (1932-1991), a critic of black American literature and distinguished professor of English at Baruch College and the City University Graduate Center.

Professor Gayle was the editor of "The Black Aesthetic," a 1971 volume of essays, and wrote biographies including "Richard Wright: Ordeal of a Native Son" (1980), which documented the Government's longtime surveillance of Wright because of his political beliefs.

- [Exhibition Open](#) – Saturday, October 4, 2014 | 5pm-8pm
- [B2 Gallery 4th Anniversary Celebration](#) – Saturday, October 11, 2014 | 5pm-8pm | \$25 – LIVE Music, ART, Food & FUN!
- [VERB Lecture Series | Panel Discussion](#) – Sunday, October 12, 2014 | 3pm-6pm (reception to follow) | \$20 – B2 Gallery VERB LECTURE SERIES has the privilege of welcoming esteemed guests,
 - Royal Alley-Barnes, MAT - Executive Director, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute
 - Dr. Joye Hardiman, Ph.D - Former Executive Director, Tacoma Evergreen State College
 - Kibibi Monie - Nu Black Arts West
 - Rosanna Sharpe - Northwest African American Museum
 - LueRachelle Brim-Akins - PNWAAQ - Pacific Northwest African American Quilters
 - Vickie Williams - Life Enrichment Bookstore
 - Negarra Kudumu - Moderator, Artist/Curator
- 3rd Thursday Tacoma Art Mingle at B² – October 16th & November 20th | 11am-8pm | Free – Come and enjoy Tacoma's night for the arts!
- [VERB Lecture Series | Gallery Talk :: Richard Mayhew \(1934 - \)](#) – Saturday, November 8, 2014 | 3pm-6pm (reception to follow) | \$20 / \$10
Students (with ID) – An Artist Reflection :: Abstract Expressionism, The Spiral Group and over 70 years as a working artist. B2 Gallery is honored to present and welcome Richard Mayhew (founding and last living member of The Spiral Group).

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WHEN – Saturday, October 4, 2014 – Saturday, November 29, 2014

HOURS – Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm | Extended Hours: 5-8pm ~ 3rd Thursday Tacoma Art Mingle

CONTACT – www.b2finearts.com | gary@b2finearts.com