

Black artists exhibit at Carolina Union

On exhibit through Feb. 8 at the Carolina Union Gallery is a collection of abstract and representational paintings in various media, *Viewpoints: Five Black American Artists*.

Artists in the exhibit are Francis Baird of Greensboro, Olivia Gatewood of Hillsborough, Vandorn Hinnant and Floyd Newkirk of Greensboro and Eugene Martin of Chapel Hill.

Baird, a Hillsborough native, is a graduate of North Carolina A&T University and currently teaches at Winston-Salem State University. His work in this show is acrylic on canvas with the imagery derived from forms of nature. He has exhibited throughout the United States.

Martin, a native of Washington, D.C., lives in

Chapel Hill. He studied at Corcoran School of Arts, Washington, D.C. He has exhibited widely in the United States and Europe and his work are in collections at the Munich Museum of Modern Art and the Isabel Taylor Work of Arts, Washington, D.C., as well as in private collections in places including the nation's capital New York City, North Carolina, Hawaii, Paris, Budapest, China, New Zealand and Belgium.

Newkirk is an illustrator at North Carolina A&T University, where he has also studied. His works have been exhibited throughout the Southeast and are in numerous private collections in that area. His paintings specifically

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address the African-American experience, often focusing on the music of the people. He works primarily in acrylic on canvas or pastel on paper.

Gatewood, whose work has begun to attract collectors here and abroad, recently exhibited at Manhattan East Gallery of Fine Arts in New York City. The Wadesboro native has studied at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Hacettepe Universitesi and Middle Eastern University in Ankara, Turkey. She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, Calif. She has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe.

"My paintings reflect my belief in the essential purity of experimental improvisation," says Gatewood. "I am a very physical painter. There is a lot of movement, both physically and visually. I feel a strong relationship between the aesthetics of music and art. I usually paint with music, allowing the musical lines to reflect in my creations.

Hinnant, a sculptor as well as painter, holds a bachelor of arts degree in art design from North Carolina A&T University, has done graduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and has served an assistantship with Weatherspoon Art Gallery. He has also taken supplemental art courses at UNC-G and studied with S. Kotani at his independent studio.

Hinnant began experimenting with abstract painting at the age of 13. After graduating from college, he moved to New York City and worked in the intaglio studio of German artist Josef Werner for one year and returned to North Carolina to begin graduate studies in studio art.

His work is exhibited nationally and is in corporate and private collections around the nation. He is also active as a guest curator, workshop leader, art juror and guest lecturer in visiting artist programs.

Hinnant lives in Greensboro and is currently exploring a series of paintings that combine the use of sacred geometry with abstract expressionism. He says that he offers these images as road maps, signposts and gentle reminders, and considers them to be tools in helping to bridge the gap between linear and non-linear thinking.

In addition to the exhibit in the Carolina Union Gallery, Martin has an exhibit in the Michel Rooryck Gallery in Ghent, Belgium. He is also represented by the De Witte Beer Gallery in Bruges, Belgium.

"There are opposing forces in all living things," says Martin. "My work reflects this and sets up a contrast of emotions in the viewer."

The show is sponsored by the Carolina Union Gallery Committee in conjunction with the University's Martin Luther King Jr. birthdate celebration. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily and admission is free.