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The Walter Anderson Museum of Art Presents Eugene James Martin: Man of Color in the Jo Love Little Gallery June 22 September 30, 2007

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Special to The Mississippi Press

OCEAN SPRINGS -- The Walter Anderson Museum of Art will presents a new exhibition within its Jo Love Little gallery on June 22, "Eugene James Martin: Man of Color."

The show features the unique and colorful works of late artist Eugene Martin. An opening reception will be held on June 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This reception is free to WAMA members and costs \$10 for non-members. Call the Walter Anderson Museum of Art to make reservations. Selections from this exhibition were previewed at WAMA's Café Night in February.

The skill and wry humor of this African-American artist is a striking celebration of cultural reflection. His work has been exhibited widely in Europe and has many connections to the work of Kandinsky, Klee and Miro.

Walter Anderson also was well aware of their work during the first half of the 20th Century and both Martin and Anderson often reduce figures to an economical one or two lines.

Martin's art is best known for his complex mixed media collages on paper, his often gently humorous pencil, pen and ink drawings and his paintings on paper and canvas that may incorporate whimsical allusions to animal, machine and structural imagery among areas of "pure", constructed, or lyrical abstraction.

Martin did not belong to any school or art movement, remaining an individualist throughout his life. After attending the Corcoran School of Art from 1960-63, he became a professional fine arts painter, considering artistic integrity his only guide. He briefly lived in Chapel Hill, N.C., from 1990-94, returned to Washington, D.C.,

and in 1996 moved to Lafayette, La., with his wife, a biologist, whom he married in 1988.

Martin's works of art can be found in numerous private art collections throughout the world and are included in the permanent collection of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans; the Alexandria Museum of Art, La.; the Stowitts Museum & Library in Pacific Grove, Calif.; the Munich Museum of Modern Art; the Arthur Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York; the Mobile Museum of Art, Alabama; the Walter O. Evans Collection of African American Art in Savannah, Ga.; and the Paul R. Jones Collection of African American Art at the University of Delaware.

Martin's work graces the walls at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art from June 22 through Sept. 30.

Contact Elizabeth Feder at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art at (228) 872-3164, ext. 123, for further information.