

For Immediate Release

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“TWENTY PLUS ONE:” PAINTINGS BY SHIRLEY HUGHES BLACKMAN
Showing at the Eisemann Center’s Green Mezzanine Gallery Nov. 3-28, 2009

RICHARDSON, TX – Exhibiting at the Eisemann Center Nov. 3-28, Shirley Hughes Blackman decided to become a “real artist when I grow up” when she won first place in a school competition at age 6. In high school she was the winner of two national competitions. After graduation she represented her home state of New Mexico in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She was historically the first contestant to list “Art” as her talent and painted on stage to win the National Talent Award and Scholarship.

She used her scholarship to achieve a BA degree, double majoring in Art and Drama, from Baylor University, Waco, TX. She has also studied painting and art history in Paris France with Reynold and Marta Arnold. Her artistic future took a turn after college. She married Clint Blackman, a business major and graduate of Baylor. For some years, raising two sons and working in the family business took precedence over her ambition in art.

In 1969 she had her first “away from home” studio. The next year she became a professional artist, showing her work in galleries and solo shows. Her work has ranged from working in fiber, portraiture, sculpture, commercial and interior design. She is currently living and working in Rockport, TX, where she concentrates on figurative and non-objective paintings. She and her husband now own and manage The Austin Street Gallery in the heart of historic Rockport. This year she won the Mayor’s Impact Award for her painting depicting the future of the historic district in Rockport.

Acrylic paint has become her favorite medium because of its versatility. It can be applied on canvas or paper, thick and opaque or thin and transparent. Drawing materials such as charcoal, graphite and water based crayons can be incorporated in a work.

Much of “contemporary art” showcased today is said to mirror our society. It often depicts the violent, abusive, and destructive aspects of our collective natures. But there is more than that to mirror. There is also strength, honor, beauty and goodness in man that must be celebrated, encouraged, and nurtured if it is to survive. “As an artist I wish to express my delight in nature and the inner beauty of the individual...and through line and color transmit my feelings to the viewer. This is the focus of my life and my art,” said Mrs. Blackman.

Selected for 16 one-woman shows: Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX; Kilgore College, Kilgore, TX; Longview Museum of Fine Art, Longview, TX; Rockport Center for the Art, Rockport, TX and Steineau Gallery, Shreveport, LA

Selected from National and International Exhibitions: 20th Century Women Artists in Texas Invitational Show, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, TX; 25th International Exhibition, Houston, TX; Contemporary Images, Seaton Hall, NJ and Assistance League National Exhibition, Houston, TX. Her work is in public and corporate collections in the US and in private collections in Central America, US, and France. More of her work can be seen at www.shirleyblackman.com.

Shirley Blackman observed, “So many factors go into a work, whether it is to be a figurative or a non-objective abstract piece. All the years of art training, life experiences, emotions, and personal choices are filtered into my subconscious and find their way on to canvas, paper or clay. My earliest memories are of “drawing and coloring,” and my earliest ambition was to be a “real artist” when I grew up. I have been incredibly fortunate to do what I do best and share my work with others.”

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday and during all public events. The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082 in the Galatyn Park Urban Center adjacent to the Galatyn Park DART rail station. For more information on exhibits and events, visit the website at www.eisemanncenter.com.

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