

Lawrence presents works at Art Museum

by Kathryn H. Bogle

Jacob Lawrence, the distinguished Black artist whose works first loomed on the scene back in the depression years of the thirties, came to Portland and brought with him, this past week end, a small collection of his own paintings not shown locally before.

He brought these to the Wentz gallery of the Portland Art Museum to add to the several already in possession of the Art Museum's one-man show.

Visitors to the one-man show viewed the paintings in Lawrence's favored style of using brush primary colors, angular figures and geometric lines. They saw Black men and Black women pictured at daily tasks.

They saw life for Harlem people pictured by the artist as harsh and real with few softening influences. They could perceive that a thread of humor in Harlem life was existent and had been reflected faithfully (or instinctively) by Jacob Lawrence, the young, budding artist.

When they had examined all of the paintings, the visitors hied themselves off to the Museum's Berg Swann auditorium to hear a "talk" by Jacob Lawrence himself.

In the auditorium, Lawrence conducted a slide show of a larger number of his paintings and invited his audience to call out questions or comments as the showing continued.

What transpired from the random questions, was the revelation of the humble qualities abiding in this dignified and sophisticated gentleman painter. He appeared not to take affront at any of the personal questions which sometimes hit at and burrowed deep into the painter's motives for doing this or that with his work.

Lawrence endeavored to find answers to all questions called to him and he admitted that his work was largely autobiographical.

He had lived in crowded Harlem. He had painted what he saw. He was poor. He used what materials he had. Brown wrapping paper. Water colors. No oils or canvas; just paper and gouache.

And, the pictures, he said, "came out of my experience at that time."

He was "only 17 or so," Lawrence said, when he began to paint. He "never intended to make a social commentary, although it turned out that way. Never thought of it as an expressed philosophy -- but it was taking place."

Lawrence took advantage of the accessibility of the Arts Centers in



Jacob Lawrence stands beside his painting in one-man show.



Artists discuss Mr. Lawrence's work on view at Wentz Gallery in Portland Art Museum. Al Goldsby, metal sculpturist, Mrs. Gwen Lawrence, painter and sculptor, and Jacob Lawrence.

Photos: Richard Brown

New York for the guidance and training he received during those formative years of his painting career. He hadn't thought about making a living from his painting, Lawrence told his audience. "I just wanted to know more about how to use color, line, texture, space, design -- balance."

The work of the artist is now divided into periods as influences in his life caused his work to become more complex and as he became less "regional" in his outlook.

Lawrence showed examples of his "Harlem Life", the "Migration Series", "The Slave Revolt", "John Brown", the latter dealing with episodes in American history. Two pictures spoke of Harriett Tubman. These were a distinct departure from his Harlem period. One, called "Harriett in the Promised Land" was a thing of fantasy, a delicate dream-like garden, an eerie tangle of pale exotic blossoms nodding in a breeze that never was.

Mr. Lawrence, honored by Brandeis and many other universities and museums across the land, is a professor of Art at the University of Washington.

Lawrence was accompanied to Portland by his wife, Gwen, who is a sculptor and a painter.

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League of Women Voters of Oregon.

Management seminar scheduled

by Stephanie Michael

The Oregon Mortgage Bankers Association will be sponsoring a management development seminar. The training workshop is designed for persons already in management positions. The session will be held October 24, at the Holiday Inn at the Portland Airport.

Jill S. Shulman of J.E. Shulman and Associates, a San Francisco based management consultant firm will conduct the one-day seminar. The class will begin at 8:30 a.m. Ms. Shulman will cover various aspects of leadership and management skills.

Workshop coordinator Maryellen Brannon says usually an average of 125 persons attend the seminar. This will be the third workshop held by the OMBA, the goal of the association is to hold at least one workshop a month. Minorities are strongly encouraged to attend the session.

For more information inquiries should be directed to the OMBA office at 223-7004 or P.O. 8181, Portland, Oregon 97207.

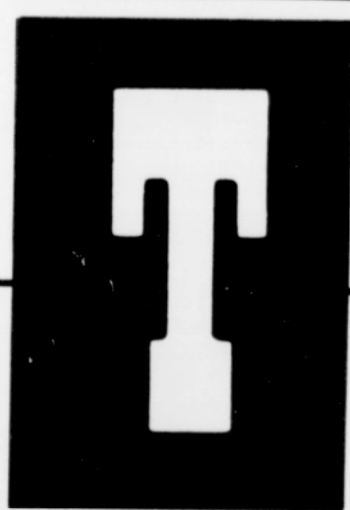
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