

METROPOLITAN

Show displays wealth of native cultures

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Hues of brown, tan and gold exploded on canvas, in masks, on blankets and tapestry, as Artistas Indigenas started their journey for world peace.

The exhibition opened August 11th, at the Skylark Studio to 60 satisfied art patrons who absorbed the cultural entertainment provided by Antara, a folklore Latin band, Karen Kitchen, MCA and others.

Artistas Indigenas will be on a four state tour that includes Oregon, California and Texas. Their art is to increase the public awareness and appreciation of Pan American indigenous women's art while the artists make artistic statements for social change.

Pauline Valerio said she has used her paintings as a vehicle to find her cultural identity. "Being half-Indian and not raised as an Indian, I came from a family that was very prejudiced. A decade ago, I started doing things that were into being an Indian."

A Valerio painting on display is called "Memories". It is a profile of



Douglas Modig, 11 years old, views some of the artwork shown at Artistas Indigenas exhibition through August 24th at Skylark Studios, 716 S.W. 16th. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

a proud Native American male. In the background, he is on horseback next to a bear standing up and an eagle resting.

"I would have liked to have been here a couple of hundred years ago. But it's all over. The bear symbolizes strength and the eagle, power. The brave is thinking that his past is gone. He is wondering

what happened and why."

Valerio said she is wondering the same. "I look around and see all the Indians on skid road. Many are drunk or laying in the streets. It makes me sick. I'm not going to say I don't get drunk because I have. But I do not drink anymore. I got smart. I would like to see it the way it was before, when Indians were

strong and powerful." She hopes her art will create the image to make that day soon.

Karen Kitchen, a performing artist, said, among the purposes of the exhibit is to reach other Chicana and Native American women who do not regard themselves as artists.

"We want to unite the two. Historically, there have been problems with the Mexicans and Indians. But in unity, there is so much more you can do. The whole Central American issue is part of a continuing struggle that has been going on in this country."

Susana Santos said there are a lot of stories behind the art. "My story is being on an Indian reservation where I saw and lived the poverty. It motivated me towards change. I felt if there was going to be change, it had to come from the women—the heart of the land, the creators of life."

Santos called the 1980's a "historical time". "Women need to be united to achieve world peace. It is important for indigenous people to take responsibility and to act. Art is a solution. It will keep you in touch with tradition and values."

Talking drums rock out at Starry Night

by Bob Lothian

The "One World Tour" of Nigeria's King Sonny Ade and Jamaica's Black Uhuru came to the Starry Night Club Monday.

It was the hottest concert of the year, and I do mean hot. Temperatures soared in the badly ventilated hall as a sea of bodies gyrated to the powerful primal sound.

Black Uhuru, often described as today's premier reggae band, brought the crowd immediately to their feet with their driving rock steady. All but a handful of the crowd stayed up and danced the rest of the night.

Uhuru is a Swahili word which means freedom. Black Uhuru's message of freedom, peace, happiness and spiritual wholeness came across in the sound, if not in the sometimes inaudible lyrics, of hits like "I Love King Selassie" and "Plastic Smile," also, "What is Life" and "General Penitentiary."

In "Solidarity," dreadlocked lead singer Michael Rose sang about a time when "nobody waiting in line, nobody being pushed around.... Look at me, I'm not your enemy. This ain't no time to fight each other—Solidarity, what we need, Solidarity." In "Abortion", the group expressed its anti-abortion stance.

"What I'm looking for is some happiness," went the refrain in "Happiness."

"Happiness is when you live with a free mind. Happiness is when you

meet new faces. From Tokyo to France...know it, even Portland, Oregon...keep the fire burning."

Black Uhuru finished their set with "The Whole World is Africa." They had not only warmed up the crowd, they had set it on fire. It was a wonder the fire dept. wasn't called.

Something of a dispute arose during intermission when, for some unknown reason, the management refused to let the audience out for a breather. Dripping with sweat, some of the dancers pressed their bodies up to the closed windows for a little cool respite. One upset woman quelled the situation by calling police from inside the hall.

But by then, King Sonny and his 18-piece juju orchestra were on stage. Everyone forgot about getting outside when the band's

eminently danceable, warm and organic wrap-around sound began emanating from batteries of ten-foot high speakers.

Can you imagine the ecstatic sound of eight percussionists (including two gold-robed talking drummers providing a rhythmic spine for the music), six guitarists and four singers?

It was as if rock and jazz, remembering their African roots, had come full circle back home, joining guitars and synthesizers with traditional African polyrhythms and call and response chants (in the group's Yoruba language), to form a new music that stretched beyond.

Evoking images of the village and tribal dancing, of beaches and palm trees and tropical nights, the music seemed to call out on a subliminal level all could understand, and to

reach out from the Nigerian Slave Coast to wrap its warm and wrap-around sound around the One World.

What is the talking drum saying? What brought fear to the English colonialists when the drums echoed through the forest? Could it be a message of freedom? Whatever it was, the crowd loved it.

And up front, the African prince, King Sonny, dressed in white...alternately moving behind his guitar and dancing in coordination with other singers...sometimes conducting his orchestra.

Roll over, Beethoven!



Sojourner Truth Theatre Performing Arts Troupe has signed an agreement with Portland Community College at Cascade to be a permanent resident on the campus. Jim Van Dyke, president at the Cascade campus hopes to have a mutual beneficial relationship with the group as well as instituting a strong performing arts program. The program will be offered as a 17-week rotation throughout the year. Pictured (l-r) Ruby Reuben, project coordinator and business manager; Nyewusi Askari, artistic director; and Jim Van Dyke, president PCC at Cascade. For more information about registration call 283-2641.

MHRC appoints new director

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has announced the appointment of Reymundo Marin to the position of Executive Director of the MHRC staff.

Commission a strong background in advocacy for human and civil rights. For the past three years, he has been working as a consultant for the National Origin Desegregation Assistance Center in the Northwest Region (Oregon, Washington and Idaho). Previous positions include: Hearings examiner for the Washington State Human Rights Commission; Board chairman of the Migrant Division of Northwest Rural Opportunity; Member, Washington State University Affirmative Action Council; Founding member and past president of the State of Washington Chicano

Education Association; Member and past chairman of the executive committee of the Migrant Education Advisory Committee for Washington State's Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In the Portland area, Prof. Marin has served as: Board Member and Chairperson of Aguila; President of the Parish Council of Mission San Juan Macias Catholic Church; Community Action Agency of Portland board member, and Hispanic Political Action Committee (HPAC) chairperson for Multnomah County. He has been the State Director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) since 1981. LULAC, founded in 1929, is the oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States.

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Divers in the Persian Gulf in 1300 A.D. used goggles made of polished clear tortoise shell.

The average American uses about 28 pounds of soap and detergents a year.

The superstition that "knocking on wood" keeps away bad luck comes from old legends which claimed that spirits lived in trees.

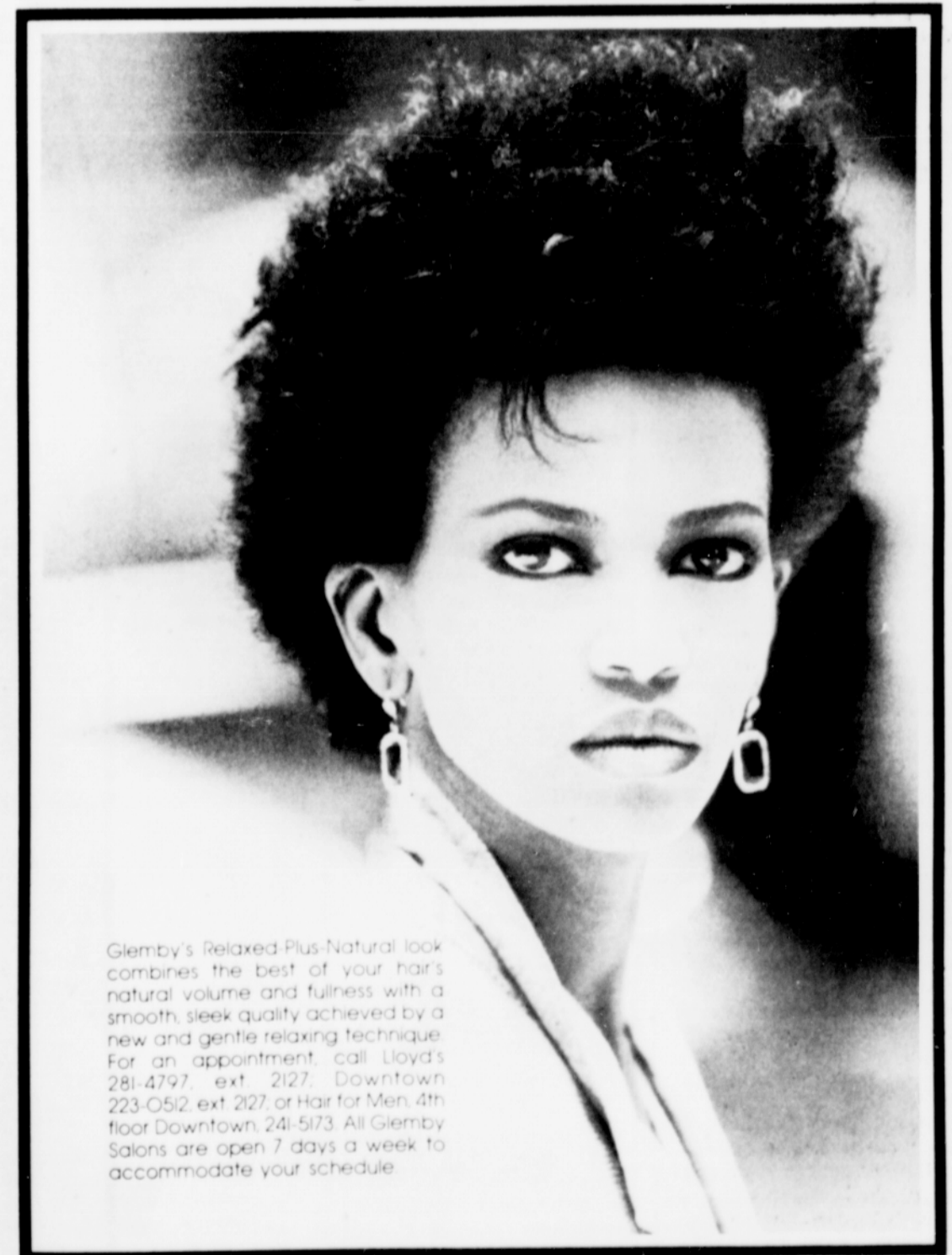
A baby bird is often called a nestling.

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