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# A "Soul Journey" of African-Inspired Ceramics

## Art

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

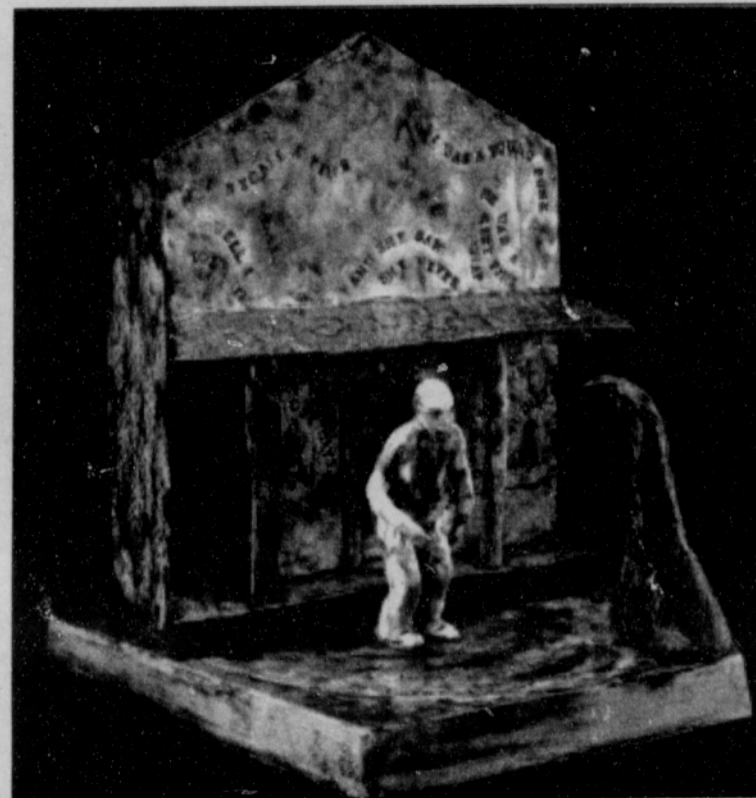
The two ceramic sculptors in this show are exponents of the "story-telling" piece.

In her series of ten related works called "Soul Journey," Gyllian Davies combine figures of dwelling, boat, human, angel into a personal history. One piece, In Good Time, shows a bent old man, a father figure, in front of a house looking at an imposing bird with long plumage. On the walls of the house behind him and at his feet are phrases such as, "I recall a time," "I was a young punk," "He was a very fine chap," "She said she never," which give us an increased understanding of this individual, his relationship with life and contemplation of death, and his influence on the artist.

Davies believes in the connection between the aesthetic and the spiritual. Her one person exhibition at the Sacred Circle Gallery in 1998 was called "Angel Voices," a variation on an earlier exhibit at the Hoffman Gallery, Oregon College of Arts and Crafts, where she received her art degree in 1990. She has also participated in juried group shows at the First Presbyterian Church Gallery and Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, as well as the showcases presented by the Oregon Potters Association.

Andreas Goff tells the stories of the Native Americans and African Americans with whom he has lived and worked. He became a potter after attending a demonstration at Pecos National Monument in 1973 and he worked as an artist and teacher in New Mexico until 1991. Resently an artist in Florida, Goff has shown his work in galleries in California, Texas, Vermont, Louisiana, Wyoming, New Mexico and Washington, D.C.

The pieces in this show, his first in Portland, focus on the portrayal of the pride and beauty of his African subjects. He has been honored to be



included as the only white artist in five of the past eleven Zora Neal Hurston juried art shows in Eatonville, Florida.

The Onda gallery opening and artist reception of "Soul Journey" will be on January 27, from 6-9 p.m. (last Thursday of Alberta Street Artwalk). Onda Studio & Gallery is located at 2215 NE Alberta Street. For more information, call 503/493-1909.

In honor of Black History Month, Onda Studio & Gallery will be presenting "Soul Journey," ceramic works by Gyllian Davies.

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