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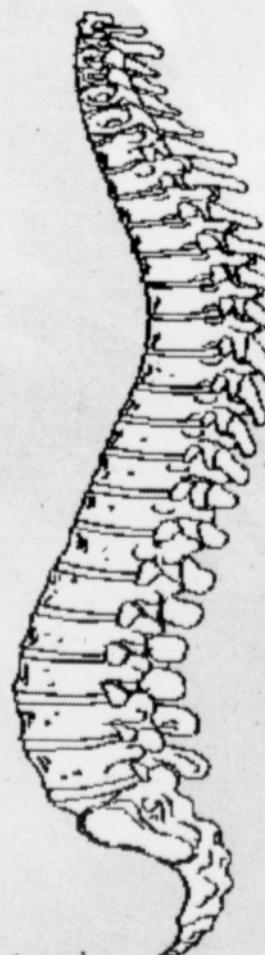
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Black Panthers

continued from front

"They were presented as gun carrying revolutionaries, but they were way beyond that," said Crane.

Steve Smith, the owner of A'kasha, said that he was introduced to Crane's work from a mutual friend who spoke highly of her work. He recalls flipping through her portfolio or more ordinary work, until he came to a part that Crane warned was a bit more controversial.

"The hairs stood up on the back of my neck," said Smith of his reaction to seeing the stark images. He began arranging for an exhibit shortly afterward.

Smith also arranged for David Hilliard, one of the key members of the Black Panther Party in the Bay Area, to come to A'kasha to talk about the movement. Speaking with the Portland Observer at the gallery, he said that he struggled with trying to get fair coverage from the press, which focused on the more sensational aspects of the movement, and found Crane's work to be much more honest and fair.

He stressed that the movement was more than just as interested in community development in underserved areas as confronting the police. Hilliard pointed out that much of the Black Panther Party Program was simply a demand for what much of the world wanted: decent housing, care for elders, education, and healthcare.

"It's more dangerous to feed kids breakfast," he said of why he thought the movement was so vilified.

He also noted that the panthers carried guns out of a very real need for self-defense from racist police. He added that when going on patrol they would have a gun in one hand and a law book in the other. Often times the police were more annoyed with the use of the law book, said Hilliard.

"We never considered ourselves militant," exclaimed Hilliard.

Crane's work will be on display for the next several weeks at A'kasha, 12602 S.W. Farmington Rd.

Hilliard and Crane will be speaking about the era on Saturday May 22, at 3 p.m.

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