

Mural Artist Rises to Top of Profession

Race and culture rooted in Arvie Smith's works

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Full time Portland artist and social justice advocate Arvie Smith uses his creative skill in painting to translate his heritage and racially-based social constructs into beautiful works of art.

Born in 1938, Smith lived with his grandparents and great grandmother, a former slave, in the Jim Crow South, and pulls inspiration from his childhood home as well as the racially-based riots he witnessed following his relocation to Watts in south central Los Angeles.

Smith's works depict various facets of historical African American strife-ridden culture, like Ku Klux Klan lynchings ("Strange Fruit," 1992), the journey of black slaves on ships to the United States ("Trail of Tears," 2006) and even a redux of the infamous Edvard Munch work "The Scream," featuring a characterization of the original Buckwheat from the Little Rascals (We Be Lovin' It, 2009).

Using vivid colors and smooth, continuous brush strokes reminiscent of 18th century French painters and Baroque styling, Smith fearlessly tackles taboo topics like the intimate relationships between whites and persons of color by portraying females as sexualized objects, much like they



PHOTO BY CHLOE DIETZ

Mural Artist Arvie Smith works with juveniles at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Center to create five murals for a Multnomah County art collection called Project Hope. The Portland artist has built a career for creating works that depict various facets of historical African American culture.

were during slave times.

Smith has had his work shown in many of the world's top cities for art, among them New York, New Orleans and Florence, Italy. As the Professor Emeritus of Painting at Pacific Northwest College of Art as well as teaching the subject at the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts, and University of Oregon, Smith has cultivated creative outputs for countless of students and other youth and even immortalized his connection to justice through mural art.

For two years, Smith worked

with men and women being held in pre-trial detention under Measure 11 crimes at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Center to create five murals for a Multnomah County art collection called Project Hope. The works are in part based on the youth's

interpretations but also rely on Smith's analysis of conversations he had with the young prisoners. Multnomah County Courthouse houses four of these 8 by 15 foot murals and another is located in the detention center.

Smith is set to begin another community mural project on the future home of a Natural Foods Market which is slated for construction later this year at the intersection of Northeast Alberta Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

All-Industry Job Fair Set

Clackamas Community College says local employers will be on site hiring for open positions when it hosts a Harvest Job Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gregory Forum at 19600 Molalla Ave. in Oregon City.

Touted as an all-industry job fair, where employers with full-time, part-time and internship opportunities connect with students, alumni and local job seekers, the free event is open to the public.

More than 50 employers are scheduled to participate, including Target, USDA Forest Service, PDX Pipeline, Helping Hands Home Care,

New Seasons Market, FedEx, Leupold & Stevens Inc., Creative Minds Learning Centers, Mt. Hood Skibowl, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare and Albertina Kerr.

Some of the industries and careers to be represented health care, manufacturing and production, business, logistics and transportation, construction, parks, recreation and leisure, warehouse, shipping and receiving, administrative and office, education, human services and retail.

View a full list of employers and to register to attend, visit at clackamas.edu/career-fair.

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