

CARLEY CRAIG

Since man first etched on the walls of his cave, and the Egyptian pled with his Gods for immortality through editorial drawings on the pyramids, art has endeavored to be a voice for man in his dialogue with God.

There are those who have made today's art a protest, but art only realizes its potential when it is an affirmation of values and vision.

Atlanta artist Carley Craig presents such an affirmation of values and vision in a series of paintings unique in conception and dramatic in presentation.

As the media for her collages, Carley Craig uses weathered, cast-off bits of the world around her---twigs of tumbleweed from a California desert, a flake of tile from a Roman bath, a swan's feather from a Swiss lake. From humanity and its searching and re-searching for identity, for security, for an understanding of his environment and most especially of God, the artist draws inspiration for her work.

A Southerner by residence, Mrs. Craig has lived in eastern and western United States and was born in the north. Each area of the country has left its mark on her personality and her work.

She has taken panels from Southern trees and with torch and rasp and scalpel has brought out of the wood the searching faces of humanity peering inward and outward toward a higher understanding of life.

Using heavy, rough Gesso or red Georgia clays as underpainting, her relief collages show figures, masses of figures moving purposefully in a search for ultimate goals.

"I intuitively strive to convey the satisfaction pursuant to a search for God at His level, not the human level," says Mrs. Craig of this phase of her work, "When I can give people a feeling of assurance of seeking and FINDING, they can become involved in a satisfying dialogue with a painting." Other paintings show figures dancing vibrantly to silent music, and reveal a love and understanding of dance as an expression of life. And children--- not one particular child---but childhood itself, spills out of other small scratch paintings.

"Art is an expression of our beliefs, our goals," says Mrs. Craig, "and it reveals at what point in time and space we are in our search for identity." Many periods of such a search are represented in the Craig paintings.

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