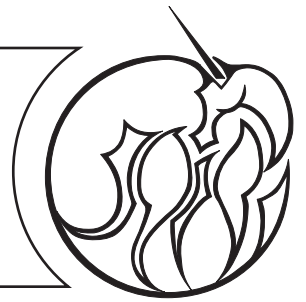


{ the avant-garde }

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME IV No. 4 APRIL 2010



{goldenrod path}

by Katherine N. Crowley

Goldenrod Path is an oil painting created in the plein aire style. Plein Aire refers to the "open air" style of painting made popular by the Impressionist movement of the early 20th Century. Prior to the Industrial Revolution artists worked indoors where they mixed a variety of pigments with linseed oil to make their paints. At the turn of the century pre-mixed tubes of paint were made available and artists were able to work out of doors without the need for studio assistants. Plein aire paintings are traditionally made on location and are executed in a matter of hours. The artist pays special attention to the way the changing light attaches to the subject.

In this particular painting I was especially interested in the bright colors of the goldenrod field and how it interacted with the many shades of green in the surrounding landscape. The walking path that cuts across the bottom of the painting gives evidence of a human presence. *Goldenrod Path* was painted on a crisp morning in the early autumn of 2008, at the Ohio State University Wetlands Preserve.

Goldenrod Path was sold at auction in March to benefit St. Agatha School in Upper Arlington.

{portrait of the artist: walter herrmann}

Reef

Artist's Statement by Walter L. Herrmann

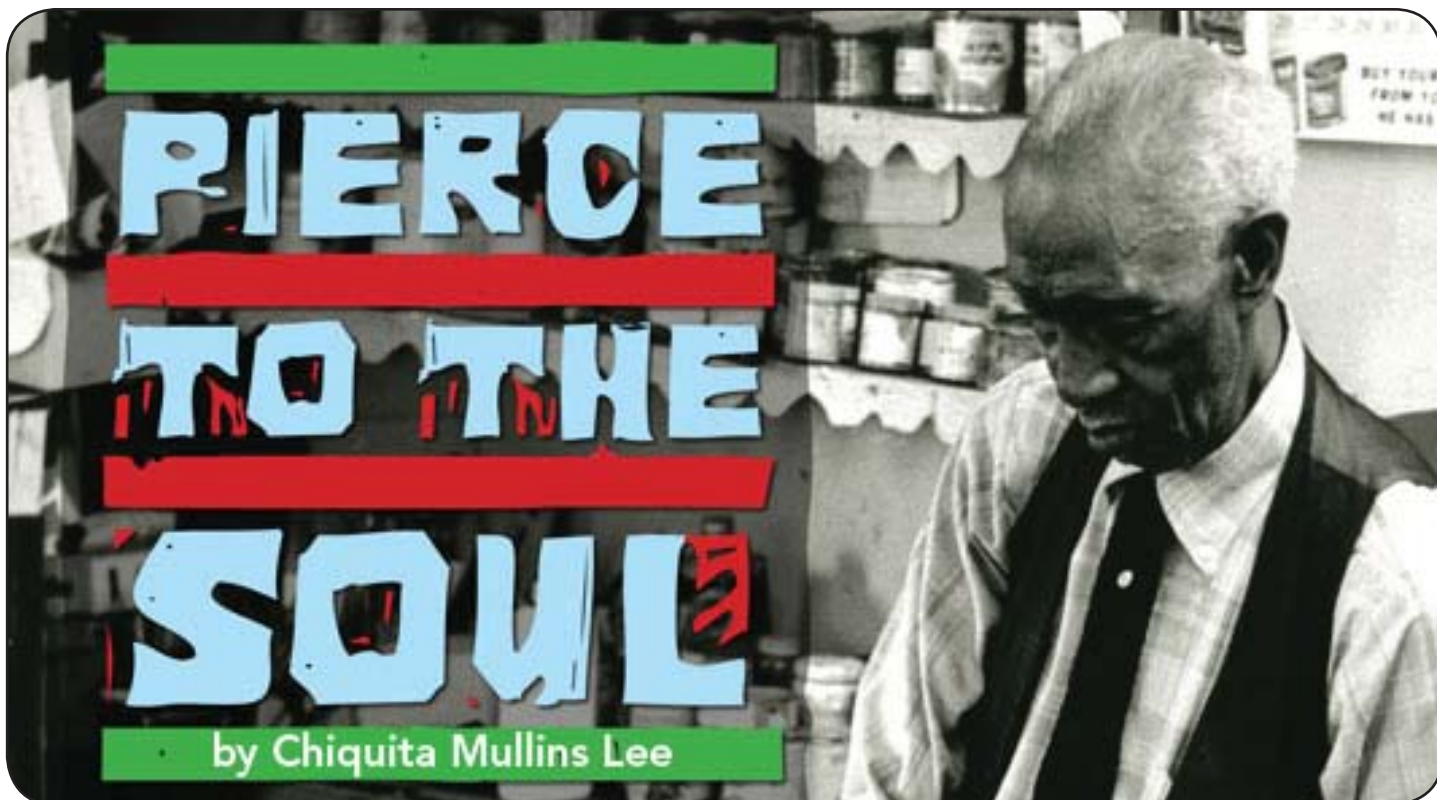
An installation of over 250 bronze, clay, and stone sculptures created by Walter Herrmann was designed with the intention of creating an imaginary underwater coral reef. The show runs from March 29th through April 30th.

A reception will be held on Friday, April 23rd from 5:00 to 9:30 in the evening when all who have purchased a sculpture will be invited to participate in the last piece of art for this installation...documenting the disruption/destruction of this pseudo micro reef to show what can happen in a short amount of time when a small population of humans move into an untouched natural environment.

Each person will be asked to take photographs of the area of the reef they have dismantled with our cameras. As the photos are taken we will be creating a time lapsed documentary of the reef's demise. This experience, a symbol of the changes in our world's oceans, will provide a visual, tactile, and emotional confrontation...hopefully leading to a new ecological awareness.

Artist's Reception Friday, April 23, 5:00-9:00pm
The Columbus Cultural Arts Center
139 W. Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215





{elijah pierce}

This month, the Contemporary American Theater Company presents the world premier of *Pierce to the Soul*, a play about the life of Columbus folk artist Elijah Pierce.

Elijah Pierce was born the youngest son of a former slave on a Mississippi farm on March 5, 1892. He began carving at an early age when his father gave him his first pocketknife. He enjoyed giving away his carvings to the kids in school and thus he began his lifelong practice of giving away his carved pieces to people who admired his work or to people he felt could benefit from it.

In his teens, Pierce decided he didn't want to be a farmer. However, he had taken an interest in barbering. Pierce began hanging out at a local barbershop in Baldwin, Mississippi and it was there that he learned his trade. Pierce liked barbering. It was a trade that would allow him to have some independence and he could get a job anywhere.

In his early twenties, Pierce married Zetta Palm. Pierce had work as a barber and they had a little home. Zetta died shortly after the birth of their son, Willie.

Eventually, Pierce decided to join the migration to the cities in the north. In Danville, Illinois, Pierce met Cornelia Houston who would become his second wife. Cornelia

was from Columbus, Ohio. When Cornelia returned to Columbus, Pierce followed her. They were married in September 1923.

Pierce carved a small elephant for Cornelia's birthday. She liked it so much that he promised her an entire zoo. He began carving animals in earnest and many were sold or given away. For Pierce, these individual animal carvings each had their own story. They represented the beasts of Genesis or creatures from the folktales of Pierce's youth.

In 1932, Pierce completed the Book of Wood which he considered his best work. The book was originally carved as individual scenes and tells the story of Jesus carved in bas-relief. Panels from the Book of Wood are currently on display at the Columbus Museum of Art in the Eye Spy exhibit.

Cornelia Pierce died of cancer in 1948 at the age of sixty-one. In 1951, Pierce became self-employed with the opening his own barbershop at 483 E. Long Street. A year later, he married Estelle Greene.

His barbershop on Long Street was a hospitable gathering place. Pierce was quite engaged in the life of the local community and of the nation. His secular carvings show his love of baseball, boxing, comics and

the movies. They also reflect his interest in national politics and his appreciation for American heroes who fought for justice and liberty. Through his carvings Pierce told his own life story and chronicled the African-American experience. He also carved stories with universal themes. He seldom distinguished the race of his figures - he thought of them as everyman.

It wasn't until the early 1970's that Pierce became known outside the local community. Boris Gruenwald, a sculptor and graduate student at Ohio State University, discovered Elijah Pierce's work in a Columbus YMCA exhibition. The two would become dear friends and Gruenwald organized several important exhibitions. Within a few years Pierce was known both nationally and internationally in the world of folk art. Pierce was honored to participate in exhibitions at galleries such as the Krannert Art Museum, the Phyllis Kind Gallery of New York, the National Museum of American Art, and the Renwick Gallery. In 1973, Pierce won first prize in the International Meeting of Naive Art in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. In 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him a National Heritage Fellowship as one of 15 master traditional artists.

In a 1979 article from New York Times Magazine, Bob Bishop of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York explained, "There are 500 woodcarvers working today in the United States who are technically as proficient as Pierce, but none can equal the power of Pierce's personal vision." Tom Armstrong of the Whitney Museum in Pennsylvania added, "Pierce's strength is based on his religion and his concept of the importance of the individual. He reduces what he wants to say to the simplest forms and compositions. They are decorative, direct, bold and amusing. He uses glitter and all kinds of devices to make his message clear. It gives his work an immediacy that's very appealing."

Elijah Pierce died May 7, 1984. Although much was written about the impact he made with his art, the people who knew him all said that what they will remember most is the kind, gentle, and humorous man who was a friend, a spiritual advisor, and a mentor to so many.

After his death, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing and Cultural Arts Complex recognized his work by naming the Elijah Pierce Gallery in his honor. The Columbus Museum of Art now owns the vast majority of Pierce's carvings - over 300 pieces.

Source: Columbus State Community College
www.csc.edu/elijahpierce/bio.htm

{all around the town}

{fine art}

The Columbus Cultural Arts Center

(<http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org>)

"Reef", Walter L. Herrmann, March 29-April 30, 2010

The Columbus Museum of Art (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>)

"Chihuly Illuminated", through September 2010

The Riffe Gallery (<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe/>)

"Sawdust & Spectacle: Under the Big Top in Small Town America", February 4-April 21, 2010

The Short North (<http://www.shorthnorth.org>)

Gallery Hop: Saturday, March 6th

-Byzantium: "Haitian Voodoo Flags"

-Mahan Gallery: "Disconnect", Thornton, Storm & Mok

-Marcia Evans Gallery: "Textured Abstracts", Annette Poitau

-Roy G Biv Gallery: "Emerge/Return" Birnbaum & Heberling

-Studios on High: "Journey Into Color"

The Wexner Center (<http://www.wexarts.org>)

"Cyprien Gaillard: Disquieting Landscapes", through April 11

"Hard Targets", through April 11

"Standing Wave", Alyson Shotz, through April 11

{performing arts}

BalletMet Columbus (<http://www.balletmet.org>)

"American Legends" Apr 23-May 1 Capitol Theater

Broadway Across America (<http://www.capa.com>)

"Dance Brazil" Apr 13 Ohio Theater

"The 5 Browns" Apr 15 Palace Theater

"Yellowjackets" Apr 28 Lincoln Theater

Catco (<http://www.catco.org>)

"Pierce to the Soul", by Chiquita Mullins Lee

April 7-25, Riffe Center Studio Two Theater

Columbus Symphony Orchestra

(<http://www.columbussymphony.org>)

Stravinsky's "Firebird" Apr 10-11 Ohio Theater

Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" Apr 16-17 Ohio Theater

Little Theater Off Broadway (<http://www.lto.org>)

"Plaza Suite", through April 3

"Over the Tavern", April 30-May 22

Saint Joseph Cathedral Gala, Concert Series &

Undercroft Gallery (<http://www.cathedralmusic.org>)

"Office of Tenebrae", April 2, 8:00PM, St. Joseph Cathedral

{and beyond}

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston (<http://www.mfa.org>)

"Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC"

Through June 27, 2010

Minneapolis Institute of Art (<http://www.artsmia.org>)

"Until Now: Collecting in the New, 1960-2010"

April 16-August 1, 2010

New Orleans Museum of Art (<http://www.noma.org>)

"Beyond the Blues: Reflections of African America",

April 10-July 11, 2010

Museum of Modern Art, New York (<http://www.moma.org>)

"Tim Burton", Through April 26

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (<http://www.nga.gov>)

"The Sacred Made Real: Spanish Painting & Sculpture,

1600-1700" Through May 31