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1. "Turtles"



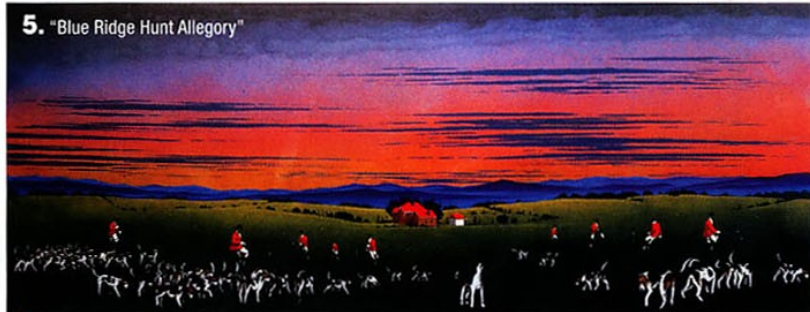
2. "Clarksdale"



3. "Southwest Mesa"



4. "Snow Patches"



5. "Blue Ridge Hunt Allegory"



6. "Cave at Eureka Springs"



7. "Kids Skating"



8. "Fanfare Series 9"

See artist names on pages 23 - 25

'Best of the South' EXHIBITION AND SALE

BY TRACY COURAGE / IMAGES COURTESY OF GREG THOMPSON FINE ART GALLERY

O riginal works by some of the South's finest artists — both living and not — can be found all under one roof this month at the "Best of the South" Exhibition and Sale at Greg Thompson Fine Art Gallery in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The annual exhibit, now in its third year, continues through July 14 and features about 40 original works by 17 artists.

"There is something that runs deep and wide in southern art," Greg Thompson, owner, said. "This show is our opportunity to showcase the best the South has to offer and to bring these quality works of art together for an amazing exhibition each year."

The exhibit includes works spanning more than a century. Included are three original works by the legendary Carroll Cloar, perhaps the most significant artist to come from Arkansas, as well as a piece by Fayetteville artist Donald Roller Wilson, whose paintings of monkeys and other animals are popular among collectors.

"These are the bedrock of southern regional art," Thompson said. "We pick them very meticulously, usually with guidance from other powerhouse artists, curators and collectors. All their works are in major museum collections and accessible to beginning and serious collectors."



9. "Good Neighbors"



11. "Map"



13. "East of Eden"



10. Endless Form



12. "Good Words"



14. "Losing Battle"

1 WALTER ANDERSON

Regionalist
1903-1965 • New Orleans

Inspired by the plants and animals of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Anderson spent long periods living a solitary existence in order to "realize" his subjects through his art, to be one with the natural world. For more information, visit the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

2 GARY BOLDING

Contemporary
b. 1952 • El Dorado, Ark.

Bolding lives and paints in rural Florida. He said, "I get a kick out of using 15th-century technology to tell a somewhat subversive story about life in the 21st-century."

3 ADRIAN BREWER

Regionalist
1891-1956 • St. Paul, Minn.

Brewer lived in Little Rock for 33 years and is known for his landscapes of the Southwest, rural scenes of Arkansas, Texas blue bonnets and portraits of prominent citizens, including U.S. Sen. Joseph T. Robinson.

4 CARROLL CLOAR

Regionalist
1913-1993 • Earle, Ark.

Raised on a cotton farm, Cloar was inspired by rural life in Arkansas. His style combined realism and naïveté with people and places from his childhood memories.

5 WILLIAM DUNLAP

Contemporary
b. 1944 • Mathiston, Miss.

He considers his work "excavations" of Southern culture, literature and the landscape. "I call what I do hypothetical realism — these places, situations and events I paint are not real, but they could be," he said, tongue-in-cheek.

6 HARRY LOUIS FREUND

Regionalist
1905-1999 • Clinton, Mo.

Freund painted murals in Pocahontas, Heber Springs, Rogers and Eureka Springs for the Works Progress Administration. He founded the art department at what is now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and headed the art department at Hendrix College.

7 THEORA HAMBLETT

Regionalist
1893-1977 • Paris, Miss.

Hamblett starting painting in her 50s and used dots of vibrant color to create compositions inspired by childhood memories, the Southern countryside and religious works. She left all her work to the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi.

8 PINKNEY HERBERT

Contemporary
b. 1954 • Charlotte, NC

Music inspires Herbert, who lives in Memphis and New York City. "The sounds of Memphis Blues and Soul, New Orleans jazz, and the energy of New York City stimulate the pulse for the lines, colors, and forms in my work," he said.

9 WILLIAM HOLLINGSWORTH, JR.

Regionalist
1910-1944 • Jackson, Miss.

Hollingsworth painted the landscapes and people of central Mississippi. Black southern culture is a thematic mainstay of his work. He established the art department at Millsaps College.

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15. "American Gable"

10 ROBYN HORN
Contemporary
b. 1951 • Fort Smith, Ark.

Horn explores texture, form and geometry, often merging the curving lines of nature with the angular lines of geometry to find balance.

11 VALERIE JAUDON
Contemporary
b. 1945 • Greenville, Miss.

Now living in New York City, Jaudon incorporates simple design elements to achieve visual complexity.

12 ED MCGOWIN
Contemporary
b. 1938 • Hattiesburg, Miss.

From 1970 to 1972, McGowin legally changed his name 12 times to "break out" of the common aesthetic rut. He has created art for four decades and lives in New York City with his wife, Claudia DeMonte, also an artist.

13 PHILIP MORSBERGER
Contemporary
b. 1933 • Baltimore, Md.

His work ranges from figurative to abstract expressionism: Morsberger lives in Georgia and said, "I start a painting by shoving colors around and have no idea what might emerge and eventually, like a normal person looks at clouds, and may say, 'Ah I see a figure running — I see an elephant,' I do that with my mark making."

14 ROBERT RECTOR
Contemporary
b. 1946 • Mississippi

As one of the South's top abstract color field painters, Rector's work is about finding balance. "What I want to capture is that one moment when everything is as it should be," he said.

15 EDWARD RICE
Contemporary
b.1953 • Augusta, Ga.



16. "Three Tops"

Rice captures the architectural features of the south's Antebellum homes, barns, smoke houses and other structures: "My goal has always been simple enough: to take ideas rooted in the past and make them relevant to our own time."

16 **GLENNRAY TUTOR**
 Contemporary
 b. 1950 • Kennett, Mo.

Tutor's work often requires viewers to think about whether they are looking at a photograph or a painting. "In my work, I explore various visual qualities of objects, as well as orchestrate ideas that I find

alluring. My painting compositions are an interplay of the visual, emotional and intellectual."

17 **DONALD ROLLER WILSON**
 Contemporary
 b. 1938 • Fayetteville, Ark.

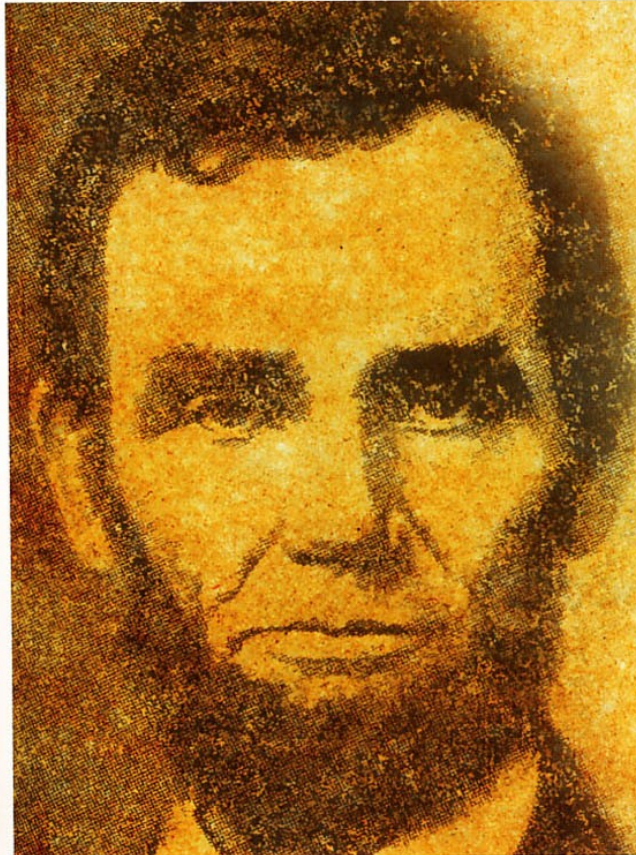
Animals and assorted objects are often the subject of Wilson's canvases. The artist said, "More than anything, my work deals with pointlessness. It takes all the arrogance out of everything you do when you know that God is so much bigger than you are ... you can make a profound intellectual statement just by basing your efforts on silliness." ■



17. "Cookie's First Easter"

Greg Thompson Fine Art Gallery

429 Main St., North Little Rock
 Phone: (501) 664-2787
gregthompsonfineart.com
 Gallery Hours: Tue. through Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 and by appointment
 Free admission



ABRAHAM LINCOLN: SELF-MADE IN AMERICA

Now – July 17, 2012

This temporary display was created to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of America's 16th president and examines Lincoln's life from his beginnings to his ascension to the Presidency and his assassination. The display is on loan from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.



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