



Virginia Wright-Frierson,
King Hall Window

The Local Artists Collection

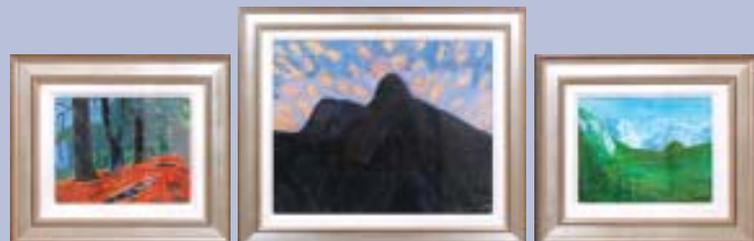
Many artists featured in the Watson Art Collection are from southeastern North Carolina and their work has been heavily influenced by the landscapes, history and culture of the region. Local artists whose work is represented include Jack Berkman, Samuel Bisette, Ann Conner, Harry Davis, Gladys Faris, Justine Ferreri, Georgeann Haas, Adelaide Kopotic, Fran Sherman and Virginia Wright-Frierson.

Art and Disabilities Collection

Several of the works in the Watson Art Collection were either created by artists with disabilities or depict subjects with disabilities. One piece in the collection is *Love Birds* by Harold Crowell, a developmentally disabled artist from Morganton, N.C., whose work has been exhibited and sold worldwide. Three 2002 paintings by Robert Postma, *Man Painting*, *Man Beside Painting* and *Artist at Work*, depict artists with disabilities, and works by these artists are part of the collection. The collection also includes three pieces by Connecticut artist Martha Perske, whose pencil drawings of persons with disabilities have appeared in books, on postage stamps and in magazines.



Martha Perske, print of untitled
pencil drawing



Left to right, M.B.,
Trees; D.A.,
Mountain; and
D.B.C., *Snow
Covered Mountain*

The Children's Art Collection

The Children's Art Collection includes art by public school children from the U.S. and Japan, and efforts are underway to expand the collection. Current pieces include works by third graders at Walter Bickett Elementary School in Union County, N.C., and works by children at Shiki Elementary School in Osaka, Japan. These works are reflective of the innate creativity of children and the responsibility of educators to encourage that creativity to thrive and grow.



Drawings by
Japanese school
children

On the cover:
*Detail from a painting in the Watson
Art Collection by Robert Postma.*



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Art The Watson School Collection

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*Art washes away
from the soul the
dust of everyday life.*

Pablo Picasso

The Watson School of Education values experiences in the visual and performing arts for its students and faculty. To support and enhance these experiences, the school began a program in 1994 to sponsor a wide range of arts-related activities that provide direct contact with works of art and often with the artists who create them.

One aspect of this program is the Watson Art Collection, a significant permanent collection of many diverse pieces of visual art including oil paintings, watercolor paintings, woodcuts, pencil sketches, ceramics and metal sculpture. These works are displayed throughout the Education Building to be viewed and enjoyed by students, faculty, staff and the general public.

The collection began with an initial donation by faculty members Andrew and Hathia Hayes of 32 works by various artists. It has since been enhanced with donations from Samuel Bissette, Harry Davis and Charles Warford as well as additional pieces for the Hayes Collection. Most of the works within the Watson Art Collection are organized into eight separate smaller collections based on the artists who created the works, the donors who provided them to the Watson School or the type of works represented.



Steffen Thomas, *Dogwoods*

The Hayes Collection

A large number of works in the Watson Art Collection were gifts from faculty members Andrew and Hathia Hayes. As long-time art collectors with eclectic taste, the Hayeses have provided the Watson School with works representing numerous artists and many diverse styles. Artists represented in the Hayes Collection include Jack Berkman, Samuel Bissette, Rose Brinson, Chuang Che, Eugene Clarin, Ann Conner, Preston Doyle, Jill Flink, Edna Hibel, John Howlin, Jansem, Robert Postma, Edna Searles, Steffen Thomas and Virginia Wright-Frierson.

The Bissette Collection

Local artist Samuel Bissette, in addition to being included in the Hayes Collection, has donated 35 of his own works to the Watson School. These pieces are depictions (paintings, drawings and electronic reproductions) of interesting and unusual microscopic images of common household items titled *Images from the Micro World*. The collection also includes nine original paintings that Bissette used as the models for a series of 15-by-17 foot mosaics he installed over the main entrances to Belk department store at Westfield Shoppingtown in Wilmington. These paintings were donated by Belk.



Samuel Bissette, *A Layered Mineral*
from *Images from the Microworld*

The Artists at Work Collection

For several years, the Watson School sponsored an Artists at Work program that engaged guest artists to produce works on site at King Hall, the school's former home. The program provided a unique opportunity for students and faculty to share in the creative process, sometimes working hands-on with the artist. Some of the completed Artists at Work pieces that became part of the school's permanent collection include *King Hall* by Perry Austin, *Climbing to Success* by Justine Ferreri, *In Full View* by Georgeann Haas, *King Seahorse* and *King Rocker* by Robert Postma, *Schooling Lookdowns* by Michael Van Hout and *King Hall Window* by Virginia Wright-Frierson.



Robert Postma, *King Rocker*



The Warford Collection

The family of Charles Warford of Brunswick County, N.C., donated this collection to the Watson School. It includes works by artists Christina Harris-Amos, J. Hussong, Gareth Kaple, Murray and Itzchak Tarkay.

Itzchak Tarkay, *Two by Two*



Harry Davis, *Day at the Beach*

The Davis Collection

Harry Davis' style is impressionistic realism and he uses bright, vivid colors that are striking and powerful. He has been widely recognized as one of the premier African-American artists in the country. Davis has donated six prints of his original works to the Watson Collection, which include *Bonda Woman*, *Pops*, *Bermuda Street*, *Sunday* and *Retired*, *Dominican Market* and *Day at the Beach*. He is based in Wilmington.