

Zenith Gallery's 40th Anniversary

Expressing Humanity: Historical, Spiritual & Symbolic

Featuring Bernie Houston, Hubert Jackson, Ibou N'Diaye

At 1429 Iris St. NW, Washington, DC 20012-1409

MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTIONS: Wednesday, July 18, 5-8 pm and Saturday, July 21, 4-8pm

Show Dates: July 18 – September 22, 2018

Have you ever wondered how nature is transformed to fine art? Look no further than our three innovative artists -

Bernie Houston, Hubert Jackson, and Ibou N'Diaye - who use wood in various unique ways.

Throughout the year Zenith Gallery has been celebrating our milestone 40th Anniversary by spotlighting select artists who have been with us for decades, and by featuring artists who are new to Zenith such as Bernie Houston, Hubert Jackson and Ibou N'Diaye. These artists reflect the Zenith culture of ingenuity through high-quality work and strong visions that are meaningful and well executed. Basically, they stand the test of time while reflecting modern society.

BERNIE HOUSTON spends his time on the Chesapeake, finding that perfect piece of driftwood for his carefully composed sculptures. Each piece is shaped by nature and inspired from its natural structure. After visualizing each driftwood piece, he cures, sands, carves, paints and polishes each creation. He sculpts everything from animals to people to objects. Because nature does not mimic itself, his entire body of work is one-of-a-kind. There is not a single piece like it on the planet. Award-winning, whimsical and thought provoking, Houston says of his work "My creations are fifty percent nature and fifty percent my own unique creativity."

HUBERT JACKSON established his career while he also taught as a D.C. Public Schools art teacher for 34 years. Jackson creates abstract and historical works, wherein he incorporates wood and other organic and found materials on the canvas. Known for his Spirits of the Battleground series, Jackson collected pieces from specific Civil War sites in Virginia to integrate into his paintings. "These works evoke the spirits of those who have come and gone but remain anonymous and unaccounted for through war, slavery, poverty or the passage of time. Although they are no longer physically present, their spirits remain with us as they have become one with nature – embodied within the life forms that emerge from the earth." Some of his recent works are based on biblical stories he remembers his father telling him as a child. His work has been shown in foreign countries such as Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, New Guinea and Rwanda through the Artist in Embassies program.

IBOU N'DIAYE follows the rich tradition of Malian sculpting. He comes from a region in Mali known as "Dogon Country" which is known as a center for African sculpture. He learned to sculpt using traditional tools - hatchets, chisels, and adzes. He creates his artwork based off a certain aura he senses from the wood, determined by the grain and how it feels in his hands. N'Diaye's pieces all conjure the harmony of the past, which he hopes to share with the world. He uses traditional hand tools to carve the wood to underscore the unity with the past as well as to make each piece feel more personal. "When I sculpt I am recovering hundreds of years of lost harmony of the people. My art is a call to all who love harmony

in the world....It isn't something I invent, it is innate. When I work it comes out of me to touch others and to try to speak to them. My sculptures speak my truth."

In conjunction with this exhibit the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary who opened their doors July 18, 1998 in the historic "U" Street neighborhood of Washington, D.C. To commemorate, Hubert Jackson's Spirits of the Battleground series, and works by Curtis Woody will be featured in the museum from July 18 – September 30, 2018. From the beginning, the Civil War Memorial project had two objectives. One -- to correct a great wrong in history, and the second -- to contribute to the economic revitalization of the "U" Street Shaw community. Over the twenty-year period we have succeeded in changing the narrative of the Civil War to include messages about the role of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) in ending slavery, and keeping America united under one flag. Today, U Street is a diverse and economically healthy community where people live, worship, have meaningful jobs and work together. Tickets for the African American Civil War Memorial & Museum 20th Anniversary Celebration available at: www.afroamcivilwar.org

40 years in any business is a long time; 40 years in the art gallery business is a lifetime! Zenith Gallery has been a pillar in the D.C. art community since its inception. We attribute our success to our ability to transform with the ever-changing times. We do this by combining our longstanding commitment to inspired, unique artworks with our personalized, high quality customer service. This commitment to celebrating the creative spirit of our artists is the core value at the heart of Zenith Gallery. As Owner and celebrated artist in her own right, Goldberg is fond of saying, "With billions of people on the planet, for someone to come up with an original idea and execute it in an original way, is what has kept me in business all these years."