

The Pehl Collection



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*A Collection of Modern Fine Arts
Featuring the Works of Women and Minorities*

contemporary artist makes this statement true the way Preston Sampson does. Sampson was honored in 1994 when the Smithsonian published a work from his series based on the men of the Negro Baseball Leagues. A native of West Palm Beach, FL and the recipient of a Fine Arts degree from the University of Maryland, Sampson makes his home in Silver Spring, MD and is one of the region's most respected and recognized artists.

60. *Sunset on Beach*—Harold E. McCray (JL)

The Pehl Collection's first acquisition of photoart is a splendid if not remarkable photograph taken by renowned African-American photoartist Harold McCray in an edition of ten. The scene; Gay Head, Massachusetts, at low sunset, as hues of pink conquer the sky, offering mere moments to capture nature's beauty. "Often the discovery of an image," he says, "happens when you let go, allowing the image to reveal itself to you." His cityscapes have become his trademark. Ordinary things, especially those found in the inner cities that frequently go unnoticed, have been and continue to present a special amount of intrigue for Harold. This special fondness for the eclectic is what drives McCray, and the results are indeed splendid.

61. *Three Graces*—Michael Escoffery (JL)

Once more, the devotion to the physical, emotional and spiritual sides of women ring out in the multi-colored facial extravaganza and exploration. In this work, this Jamaican born artist attempts to provoke the viewer with skin tones, each with its own measure of beauty, and each, in fact, otherwise no different from the other....offering blue hair as proof that color can't possibly matter. Escoffery frequently uses women as the symbol of courage and strength in black society, and *Three Graces* offers a portrait of a shared vision among them, with strength and beauty as synonymous terms. Also by Escoffery, **61A**, *More Than A Rose*, oil on paper.

62. *Tyein' One On*—Carolyn Crump (JL)

This remarkable, hand- and machine-sewn fabric appliqué puts the three most popular jazz instruments together in ensemble in a celebration of technique as well as subject. Jazz is improvisation in its most basic roots, and this is Crump's perfect expression of the interlacing of musicians and instruments in art as a prerequisite to successful improvisation in life. Here, she catches each groove with her needle and threads, while her avant-garde subjects catch the groove overall. A native of Detroit, Crump now makes her home in Houston.

63. *Fire Escapes*—Harold E. McCray (JL)

Pehl, always hesitant as a Collector to venture into the photographic art medium, nonetheless couldn't resist adding another McCray to her collection with this remarkable photograph—a cityscape fire escape, if you will—that proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that black and white photography can be poignant, striking and, above all, a fine art medium that is too often underappreciated. McCray, who was born in Philadelphia and resides in Baltimore, caught this shot as an afterthought while walking through a Boston alleyway off of Hemingway Street in 1993, not realizing what he had captured until finished in the darkroom. This print, in an edition of ten, was photo printed by Greg Stillman, now deceased, one of Baltimore's best known photoprint technicians. The benefit of collaboration of photoartist and photoprint specialist is vividly evident in this extraordinary work.

64. *Music in Red and Green*—L. Li

Li, born and raised in Dalian, China, began painting at age seven; taught primarily by his father in a culture that placed little value on modern, fine artworks. After years of numerous jobs within China's Cultural Revolution, Li came to the United States in 1992 at age 34 and in the years since has developed a devoted following of art lovers and collectors. This amazing abstract exhibits his use of intense colors within dynamic themes, which has become his hallmark. He claims no real explanation for his abstracts, but concedes that "the themes I paint are sometime produced entirely from a dream or an unexplained period of hallucination," which he attributes to a close correlation of experience and environment. Li currently makes his home in South Carolina.

65. *Sweet Spirit Siren*—Ruth Porat

The mystical, musical subject of this acrylic on wood by Porat is consistent with her philosophy that "art is interwoven with our soul and spirit...enveloping us in a warm, imaginative nest." Porat, a native of Israel, studied fine art in the prestigious Avni's School of Art in Tel-Aviv before coming to the United States in 1992. Her technique employs a unique process that begins with pencil sketches on wood with added wood colors, stains, acrylics and varnishes. The frame was also hand-painted and designed by the artist. Porat makes her home in Florida.

66. *Bassic Harmony*—K. Wesley Clark

Clark continues to prove his artistic skills with multiple mediums in this charcoal on paper portrait of a bassist at work, proving as well that