

## NICA Presents African-American Art Exhibition

In celebration of Black History Month, Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art (NICA) presents *EMERGING LEGACY: A COLLECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART FROM 1880-1987*, February 12 - March 9, 1990 at the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery on the UNLV campus.

This unique exhibition is organized by the Evans-Tibbs Collection in Washington, D.C. and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), which will travel the exhibition nationally through 1992.

NICA is introducing its Guided Tour Education Program with this exhibition. Clark County school children, grades 4 - 12, are being bused to the Donna Beam Gallery where trained gallery educators will guide them through the exhibition using interactive participation. This education program and the exhibition have been made possible through a generous grant from CITICORP/CITIBANK, with additional assistance from Mervyn's, Nevada Title Company, Pioneer Citizens Bank of Nevada and the Nevada Humanities Committee, Inc. Tours will be available to the public for groups of ten or more by reservation.

The exhibition will focus on 20th century African-American art, the 71 drawings, oils and watercolors look at the influence of 19th century black artists and the relationship of art to black American history from 1880-the 1980s. Included are works by Edward Bannister, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Alma Thomas, Laura Wheeler Waring, Raymond Saunders, Lois Mailou Jones and Grafton Tyler Brown.

Prior to the abolition of slavery and the Reconstruction of southern states, many black artists and craftspeople were slaves. A limited number of free northern blacks trained as artists, but most were obligated to fulfill other demands. Following this period, African-American artistic expression flourished.

Some of the first nationally recognized black artists were from free northern backgrounds. Edward Mitchell Bannister, a painter influenced by the Barbizon school, was one of the first black artists to be recognized by the American art establishment. In the late 1880s, William A. Harper

Hughie Lee: Smith Girl with Portfolio, 1987, oil, 28" x 22", Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard King



## WHEN THE TRUE STORY OF BLACK HISTORY IS WRITTEN, WILL EVERY BLACK PERSON BE ABLE TO READ IT?

As it is today, one in five Americans is functionally illiterate. Shockingly, one in four African-Americans couldn't read and understand the story of their own ancestors' accomplishments. If we don't do something today, tomorrow will be worse.

During Black History Month, and through the year, Coors Brewing Company will bring you messages about literacy and how to find help for those who need it. Literacy is a lot like history. If you don't pass it on, it's lost.

**Coors**

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