

Artist makes Las Vegas stop

Blackshear known for romantic symbolism

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Award winning artist, Thomas Blackshear II, will be at Moonstruck Gallery Feb. 27. Blackshear is the featured artist for Moonstruck's In Celebration: Black History Month.

Blackshear's versatility and skill enable him to create images that range from

romantic symbolism to 20th century narrative realism.

His inspirations have encompassed work as diverse as the enduring fable "Beauty and the Beast" to stamp collections of classic movies and Black Heritage for the US Postal Service.

In his first Las Vegas appearance, Blackshear will

display and discuss his most recently published limited edition fine art prints and porcelain figurines.

A slide presentation and lecture by Blackshear begins at 6 p.m. followed by a reception. The event is free of charge and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the African American Cultural Arts Foundation, Caesars Palace and Moonstruck Gallery.

Among the artwork Blackshear will be exhibiting is "Night in Day," which he considers his "breakthrough" piece. Its extremely striking image symbolizes the emergence from the darkness of doubt into the light of hope.

"It was the first time I saw a painting in my head before I did it. Every piece I've done from that point on has been affected by Night and Day. I've had a new goal, a new outlook and new reason for what I am doing," he said.

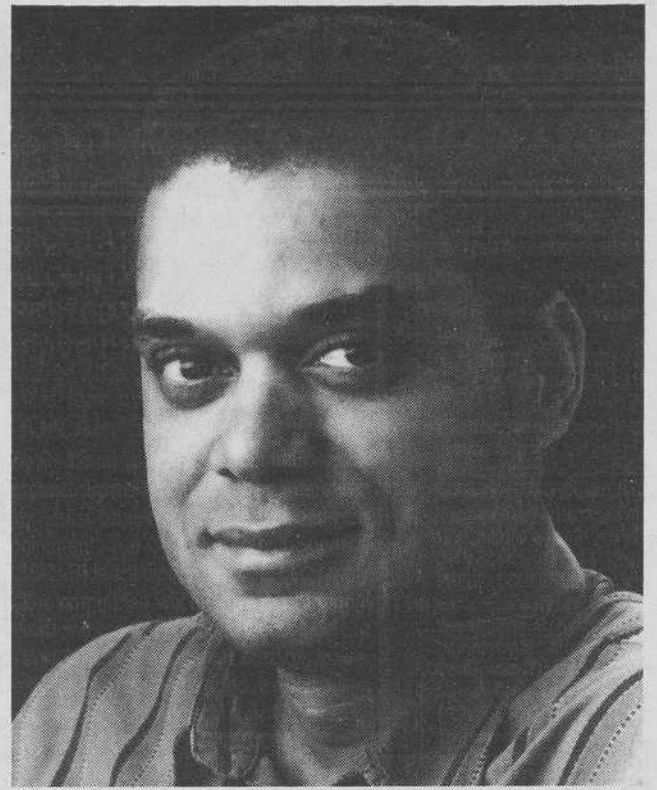
"Ebony Visions," Blackshear's dynamic porcelain collection, depicts strong images of African-American people in a style he calls Afro-Nouveau. These figurines have been well received by collectors throughout the country and will be on display during this exhibit.

Blackshear, the son of an Air Force captain, was born in Waco, Texas and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. He attended the Institute of Art and Academy of Art in Chicago. After college, he was recruited

by Hallmark Cards and later was an apprentice of illustrator Mark English. He also worked as an illustrator for the prestigious Godbold/Richter Studio. Although successful as an illustrator, Blackshear found this unsatisfying and decided to pursue a career in fine art.

A much honored painter, Blackshear has also been featured on the Ebony/Jet showcase, The 700 club and in the Saturday Evening Post. An exhibit of his original works for the black Heritage stamp series premiered in 1992 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and subsequently toured the United States.

Blackshear's work is published as limited edition fine art prints by the Greenwich Workshop and as porcelain collectibles by Willets. A series of sacred images are also published as part of the



Thomas Blackshear

masterpiece Collection by Dayspring.

In Celebration, Black History Month will be on display through March 4. For information on Blackshear's appearance, the exhibit or

AACAF, contact Moonstruck Gallery at 364-0531. Moonstruck Gallery is located at West Sahara Ave. at Torrey Pines. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.



Blackshear's "Night In Day"

Saving children means extended families

By Marian Wright Edelman
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Nobody understands better than Black Community Crusade for Children Working Committee member Kent Amos the miracles adults can work in the lives of young people who have been marked by society for failure.

For the past 15 years, Kent and his wife, Carmen, have been opening their hearts and home to scores of children in Washington, D.C., where they live, and in cities across

America. In 1981, Kent invited three young men into his home for dinner, conversations, and study sessions. Before long, he and Carmen had 25 young people eating, studying, and sharing stories in their home every night. Kent kept an eye on their class work, went to their ball games at school, and put his arms around them when they needed a friend. Even when they got into trouble with the law, Kent stood by them before the judge. In one case, he talked a judge into probation instead of jail. And even after the young man violated his probation and went to jail —

where his father and stepfather were incarcerated — Kent visited him and encouraged him to get his GED.

"There are too many of our children dying needlessly," says Kent, who lost three of his "adopted" sons to violence; one was stabbed to death in a dispute over a basketball game and two others were shot. "I committed to my sons that their deaths would not be in vain."

Within 10 years, Kent's extended family grew to nearly 100 young people, and in 1991, he took his efforts to an even higher level, establishing the

(See Families, Page 11)

NOW EVEN BIGGER ... TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Las Vegas' only Afro-American upper management auto consultant

No matter what the credit, we can help!
In fact, possibly with no money down.

Gary Hanna Nissan can help re-establish your credit and give you a great deal on your next new or used vehicle. Let us try!

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Lawrence Ennis

"Your time is important to me. Please phone ahead for an appointment."

3250 East Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada

457-8061

The 1996 Tax Season Is Upon Us

FOR FAST & ACCURATE RETURNS

M. R. Bookkeeping & Tax Service

Located at:

716 S. Sixth Street, Suite B

Office Telephone:

\$ 386-6001 \$
VoiceMail: 391-5530

INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS RETURNS & ATTACHMENTS

- Electronic Tax Filing Service
- Computerized Tax Returns
- Friendly Professional Staff

\$ 5% DISCOUNT ON RETURNS DONE BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 1997

Let M.R. Bookkeeping process your returns and advise you on 1997 tax tips

