

Moving depictions of heritage and hope

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Although their work is distinctly different, each artist featured in this issue of *Unity* captures the essence of African-American culture in his or her work.

Harold D. Davis

Raised on a farm in rural South Carolina until age 7, Harold Davis lived with his parents and extended family. When not doing chores as a child, he sketched on paper with charcoal from the fireplace and drew with pencils, chalk and crayons. After moving to Bridgeport, Connecticut, Davis says his neighbor, an artist, taught him to draw and use oils on canvas. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Traphagan School of Fashion and Design in New York and spent a year abroad studying art and sculpture in Paris.



"Facial Impression"
by Harold D. Davis

"Birds," an acrylic painting on canvas, shows the winged creatures flying to their nests after fishing offshore. The clouds in the painting are a mixture of cascading reds and yellows.

"Facial Impression" is a mixed-media painting, using three textures to create a basket-weave effect on a man's face.



"Birds" by Harold D. Davis

"My abstract expressionist paintings emphasize the strength of free form," Davis explains. His work incorporates images and shadows to create different visions and emotions for the viewer.



"Nomad" by Harold D. Davis

One must look carefully at "Nomad" to find an abstract depiction of a warrior riding on an elephant while holding a spear. The reds symbolize the shedding of blood and the flames surrounding him.

Many of Davis' artworks have been exhibited in universities, libraries and theaters. Numerous paintings can be found in private collections throughout the U.S. and France.