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Contact: Ann-Laura Parks
aparks@southarts.org
404/874-7244 x 25

Story Ideas

Six of the artists in *Tradition/Innovation* have been awarded the **National Heritage Fellowship** by the National Endowment for the Arts, the nation's highest honor for traditional artists:

Philip Simmons, South Carolina, 1982
Jerry Brown, Alabama, 1992
Vernon Owens, North Carolina, 1996
Gladys LeBlanc Clark, Louisiana, 1997
Mozell Benson, Alabama, 2001
Nicholas Toth, Florida, 2003

Four Themes

Four strong themes are presented in *Tradition/Innovation*, each one of which can be explored in depth: **Cultural Practice, Relationship to Place, Innovation and Evolution, and Connections**. These four sections are designed to share conversation between the curators with the visitor; to give voice to the artists; to prompt a viewer's own questions and discoveries; and to illustrate some of the South's most intriguing art.

Masterpieces – Created Today, Created in the South

The master artists represented in *Tradition/Innovation* live and work in the South today. They are considered masters by their community, their peers, and all of those who recognize the craftsmanship, eloquence and creativity in the objects they create. Viewers are invited to consider what, in their eyes, makes a "masterpiece," and to get to know master artists that live in their city, state and region.

Teaching Artists

Many of the artists actively teach their process to others – informally through family and community; as guest instructors at arts and crafts schools; and as faculty in college and university settings. Their approaches and students may vary, but all have a commitment to ensuring the artform lives on through other practitioners.

Arts Learning

Teachers, students and arts-curious adults, regardless of their proximity to a venue presenting *Tradition/Innovation*, will have the chance to experience and learn about the artists and artwork. Launching in December, 2007, www.traditioninnovation.org will present "virtual galleries", podcasts and educator guides for the artists and media in the exhibit, including lesson plan ideas and presentations that connect to national education standards.