

Family Gallery Guide



Highlights from the Gadsden Arts Center Permanent Collection

Bates Permanent Collection Gallery, 2nd floor

The four works of art on display have been selected from the Gadsden Arts Center's Permanent Collection to showcase the talents of Tallahassee artist Mary L. Proctor and African artist Chief Z.O. Oloruntoba. Both artists create their artwork to help their audience in some way, either through spiritual messages or healing purposes.



Mary L. Proctor, untitled, 1997, mixed media, 14.5 x 19 inches. Gadsden Arts Center Permanent Collection, Gift from Lou and Calynne Hill, 2009.1.10



Mary L. Proctor, untitled, 1995, fiber, paint on plywood, 12 x 27.5 inches. Gadsden Arts Center Permanent Collection, Gift from Lou and Calynne Hill, 2007.1.4

Mary Proctor is a self-taught artist who began creating art after a tragic accident changed her life forever. In 1995, her grandmother, aunt, and uncle were killed in a terrible fire, and Ms. Proctor was devastated by her losses. She spent time fasting and praying in an attempt to understand the Lord's purpose for her pain and grief.

Then, according to Ms. Proctor, a bright light appeared and a voice spoke to her, telling her to paint an image of a lady on an old door. She followed these directions and was relieved to find purpose for her life in creating art that expresses her Christian beliefs.

Glossary

assemblage- art that transforms found objects into sculpture through combining or constructing techniques such as gluing or welding.

curative- able to cure something, like a disease.

non-traditional materials- instead of canvas and paint, artists will use twigs, glass, rope, cloth, and other found materials to create their art.

self-portrait- a work of art representing the artist who created it.

Mary Proctor sees herself as a missionary and uses her art to spread her messages, often writing verses from the Bible and other inspirational works on her paintings. In her large **self-portrait**, Ms. Proctor writes messages to her audience. What do you think she is trying to tell you?

Fun in the Gallery!

Look closely at the large **self-portrait** by Mary Proctor. How many angels can you count? How many yellow suns? Why do you think the artist painted these angels and suns on her self-portrait?

What is the figure doing in the painting? Does she look happy or sad? Why?

If you were going to paint a picture of yourself, what would you be doing? And what would you paint around you? Would you use pencils and paint to create your portrait, or would you use **non-traditional materials** like Mary Proctor?



Mary L. Proctor, *Self-Portrait*, n.d., glass on found window, 44.5 x 49 inches. Gadsden Arts Center Permanent Collection, Gift of Su Ecenia, 2011.2



Chief Oloruntoba, *untitled*, n.d. pen on fabric, 12 x 26 inches. Gadsden Arts Center Permanent Collection, Gift of Lou and Calynne Hill, 2009.1.15

Chief Zacheus Olowonubi Oloruntoba is an herbalist, spiritual leader, flutist, and visual artist from the Ogidi village in Nigeria, Africa, who has exhibited his work all over the world. Born in 1919, Oloruntoba first began painting at age 15 to express and explain his powerful, vivid, and often psychic dreams.



Oloruntoba began working with herbal hand-dyed cords applied to canvas over 50 years ago and believes that these dyes add **curative** properties to his paintings. His images mainly consist of animals, musicians, his village and women.