

Accompaniment

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

Is funded in part by the Mesquite Arts Council, First State Bank, Chicago Title Co., and Cornerstone Press. Media sponsorships include the Mesquite News, KEOM 88.5 and *The Dallas Morning News*

The Dallas Morning News
DallasNews.com



Three Women with a cat

Recovered Views:

African American Portraits, 1912-1925

opening May 15, 2007 at the Mesquite Arts Center, presented are 40 photographs from a truly extraordinary collection. The majority of the exhibit is currently attributable to John Johnson (1879-1953; Lincoln, Nebraska) although some images appear to be from an as yet unidentified photographer. Mr. Johnson was the son of a black Civil War veteran and a lifelong resident of Lincoln. Community elders remember his travels through Lincoln by horse and buggy with camera and tripod, taking photographs

The black-and-white portraits were made in the early part of the 20th century. These portraits are more than just stunning images; they document life in a vibrant black community in a small Midwestern city, a society rarely depicted in any medium.

The story of how these photographs came to light is almost as fascinating as the images themselves. In the spring of 1999, local researchers learned of a group of glass-plate negatives held by a prominent black family in Lincoln. It was immediately obvious from both the unique subject matter of the negatives and their exceptional artistic quality that this constituted an important find. Local and national publicity about the find led to another huge cache of negatives by the same artist. Over 300 negatives have surfaced so far.

Recovered Views: African American Portraits, 1912-1925, made possible by generous grants from the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. and from the Cooper Foundation, is curated by John E. Carter, Special Projects Coordinator at the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln. The exhibition is organized by the Nebraska State Historical Society and toured by ExhibitsUSA.

Duane Light "a life-time of art"

Officer Tommy Long, of the Mesquite Police Department called the Arts Center office one day and said, "*Please come see the art work of Mr. Light. It is extraordinary and should be considered for an exhibit at the Mesquite Arts Center.*" Officer Long had responded to an emergency at Greenway Village, a part of the Christian Care Center in Mesquite. The watercolors by Mr. Light shimmer and glow according to the representation depicted in the painting. From seascapes to trains, mountains to lighthouses, the work is exceptional and covers most of the walls in his apartment. The work hanging from the walls of his apartment and stacked in the small studio depict "a life-time of art."

Mr. Light has lived at the center since moving to Mesquite from California in 2003. During his long and vibrant life Mr. Light and his late wife traveled the United States. He is a man of great warmth, enthusiasm and experience and has spent a lifetime as an outstanding artist and teacher. His schooling includes the American Academy in Chicago, the New York Institute of Photography and the University of California, La Jolla. For 21 years, as owner of a large studio for art and photography, he taught drawing, painting and airbrush.



Both of these exhibits begin May 15th and continue through June 20th. Hours are listed as 8a to 5p Monday through Friday although the Arts Center is open in the evening and weekends during other public events. Meet Mr. Light at an artist reception on May 19th beginning at 3p.

A Bright Light's Shining

by Deb R. Brimer

*If you ask me what I came here to do in this world,
I, an artist, I will tell you: "I am here to live out loud."*

Emile Zola

Mes haines (1866)

The hands of time etches a picturesque collection of changing seasons, faces and colors in the minds of all people. From the innocence of youth to the wisdom of maturity; from the endearment of a beloved companion to the smile of a child; from the darkest moment to the most vivid celebration — we're all a picture book of what we love, where we've been and who we've yet to become.

Duane R. Light has spent a lifetime transferring his mental pictures to watercolor media. He discovered the world of illustration and watercolors as a youngster growing up in Illinois during The Great Depression. While most kids played outdoors, Light entertained his friends by drawing pictures.

Then — like today — most aspiring artists were forced to get a “real job” in secular business while moonlighting as an artist in order to put food on the table and support their families. But Light wasn't one of them. With exception to a stint in the US Army during World War II, he always made his living by combining his passion for art with demands of the business world.

While attending college at night, he worked as an artist for the Rock Island Arsenal where he illustrated how-to manuals on assembling and disassembling artillery. When the war ended, the Army closed the arsenal but retained the art department. And Light's job evolved into a series of global assignments.

Light later entered the advertising arena where his illustrative techniques and talent put him in hot demand with agencies. After learning the ropes in the ad business — he launched his own agency, branched out into photography and eventually added about 30 more illustrators. When all three of his sons had completed their education, Light and his wife packed up and headed to California where he built another ad agency and subsequently opened Studio West, an art gallery and school in San Diego.

At Studio West, Light carved his name even deeper into the art world. His paintings were on exhibit at Pepperdine and other universities. And through an endorsement deal, Light demonstrated Graubacher's full line of colors and mediums throughout the West Coast art community.

“My dad always told me to do the best at whatever I did,” Light said. And Light has done just that. His works include more than 6,000 paintings. He's authored a number of instructional books on watercolor techniques. And one of his protégés, James Gibbs, is part of the creative team at Disney that developed *Saving Nemo*.

Light has been commissioned by Fortune 500 companies as well as the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard to respectively provide illustrations. One of his works is on display at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

Light moved to the Christian Care retirement complex three years ago in order to be near his oldest son, Don, who's a real estate agent in Wylie. Light quietly adorned the walls of his apartment with favorite paintings, one of which is a watercolor of his grandparents' barn that he painted 60 years ago and framed with actual barn wood. And Light found a peaceful place in the courtyard to continue painting the pictures in his mind.

Light had been a well-kept secret in Mesquite's senior community. But that changed when he had a medical emergency. MPD Officer Tommy Long responded to the call and sent out his own alert to Mike Templeton, managing director of the Mesquite Arts Center.

“I had never talked to Officer Long,” Templeton said. “But he said to me, ‘Mike, this may not be what we do as far as the arts in Mesquite, but would you come look at the artwork of Duane R. Light? He lives in Greenway Village. I was just there. And the artwork is incredible.’”

Templeton visited Light and agreed wholeheartedly. Unlike most artists who have a signature style, Light's work clearly has a renaissance quality that can only be defined by colors and pure talent.

“He is as adept at landscapes as he is at still-life. And all of his work is done in water colors, which is probably the most difficult medium in which to paint,” Templeton said. “I think for anyone, especially Mr. Light, to have been dedicated to his art form and his subjects for so long, his work can only be described as A Lifetime of Art.”

At 83, Light has no plans to retire his brushes and palette. Although Parkinson's disease prevents him from standing at his easel for long periods of time, his hand amazingly stops shaking when his brush connects with watercolor media.

Perhaps Duane R. Light's legacy centers less on the paintings and more on the soul of the painter — the artist who keeps living out loud.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

Mesquite Arts Council receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

For the second year in a row the Mesquite Arts Council has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for programming that reaches a broad and diverse audience. This year's award recognizes, now in its 10th year, the JazzBreaks on the Plaza series. Challenge America: Reaching Every Community is by invitation and promotes the arts in geographic areas that previously have not been funded.

Each year during the month of June the Arts Council presents outdoor jazz concerts on Tuesday evenings. The first and last Tuesday's feature the MJRE Big Band and the second and third Tuesday's of the month feature smaller jazz groups.

The series has grown enormously over the years in popularity and draws an audience from the eastern and southwestern United States. On June 5th the MJRE returns.; Clave Con Alma (a three horn Latin Band) joins the series for the first time on June 12th; the Shelley Carrol Quartet returns on June 19th and the MJRE closes the series on June 26th.

Casual and cool, there is plenty of shade, and the concerts bring great music to hundreds of people each June. Check out the new on-line video at www.mesquiteartscenter.org, click on "Jazz Breaks Video" and see for yourself.

Treat yourself, family and wee four legged creatures to this free event. Curt Bradshaw is back waving his arms and hands in front of the sixteen piece big band with great delight — 7:30p each Tuesday in June.

Mesquite Symphony Orchestra — 20th Season and violinist Shannon Lee

On May 12th, the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra will end its 20th Anniversary Season with a concert featuring violinist Shannon Lee, who will perform Sergei Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major*. On this program, entitled EXPRESSIVO!, the Orchestra will also perform Gabriel Faure's hauntingly beautiful *Pavane Op. 50*, with the concert concluding with Tchaikovsky's majestic *Symphony No. 5, Op. 64*.

The performance will start at 7:30 p.m., at the Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets for the performance are \$12.00 Adults, \$8.00, Seniors, and \$6.00 Students and they are available the evening of the concert, May 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Young Canadian-born violinist Shannon Lee made a stunning orchestral debut at the age of twelve with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in the summer of 2005, performing both the Chausson Poeme and Franz Waxman's fiendishly difficult Carmen Fantasy, originally written for Jascha Heifetz. In a front page article, The Dallas Morning News exclaimed, "When she started to play, her maturity and skill suddenly placed her artistic age far beyond her calendar one." Further critical acclaim greeted Shannon in the fall of that year when she was featured as soloist during the DSO's Texas Tour, performing the Barber Violin Concerto. She was immediately engaged by the tour's conductor, Giancarlo Guerrero, for solo performances of Prokofiev D major Concerto with his orchestra in the spring of '07. Charlotte's Maestro Perick also heard Shannon while conducting in Dallas and invited her to North Carolina to perform the Sibelius Concerto. In April, Shannon will be making a recording for Telarc International Corporation that is planned for release in January of '08.





"Morning Light" by Duane Light

Duane Light EXHIBIT

← May 15-June 20

**Artist reception is May
19th at 3p**

***Recovered Views:
African American
Portraits 1912-1925***
→
from Lincoln, Nebraska
May 15-June 20



"Woman in satin and pearls"

Courtyard COLORS

MAY

- 12** **"Expressivo!"** is presented by the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra at 7:30p. Call 972-216-8127 for tickets and reservations.
- 14** Sign-up at 8a for the **John & Alta Nichols Art Camp** that begins June 11-15. The fee is \$20 and includes all supplies. Space is limited so come early.
- 15** **Recovered Views: African American Portraits 1912-1925** is presented in the Main Gallery by the Mesquite Arts Council. The exhibit continues through June 20th.
- 15** The watercolors of **Duane Light** are presented by the Mesquite Arts Council through June 20th.
- 17** Join artist Duane Light at a reception beginning at 3:00p in the Main Gallery. **FREE!**
- 18/19** **El Conejito Verde/The Green Rabbit**, a bilingual play will be presented at the Mesquite Arts Center by the Latino Arts Association at 10a. Admission is free although a ticket will be required. Call 972-216-6444.
- 19** **Texas Voices** presents a concert in the concert Hall at 7:30p. Tickets are \$15 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 972-801-2532.

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

1527 N. Galloway
Mesquite, TX 75149
ph: 972.216.6444