



Leo Twiggs' 1969 batik work, "Blue Wall."

developing an arts scene

Galleries join together to promote
downtown arts opportunities

By Lauren Hoyt
The Herald

A new idea to develop the arts scene in downtown Rock Hill calls for local art institutes and galleries to share resources and coordinate projects.

Through what's being called the Dalton Downtown Arts Initiative, area galleries and universities will share openings and partner in other ways to build momentum around an interest in downtown arts.

It is a way to connect the creative dots, said Tom Stanley, Winthrop University galleries director, who is the force behind the initiative.

"There's all these things happening here in Rock Hill with the arts," said Tamara LaValla, co-owner with Zan Maddox of Gallery at Gettys. "Maybe if we can kind of present it in one digestible chunk to people, they can understand what their options are and maybe take better advantage of them."

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Leo Twiggs' 1999 batik work, "Blues at the Beach."

O&A with artist Leo Twiggs

By Lauren Hoyt
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Orangeburg artist Leo Twiggs will display his works at both the Winthrop University Galleries and at the Dalton Gallery at Clinton Junior College through October.

The works on display in Rock Hill include those just shown in a retrospective exhibit, "Myths and Metaphors: The Art of Leo Twiggs," organized by the Georgia Museum of Art, and which recently completed a two-year tour, as well as newer works, which he has completed since 2005.

We spoke to him recently from Orangeburg.

Q: You are considered one of the most important South Carolina artists since the 1960s. How does that feel?

A: I think you live long enough, you get it (laughing). It's an honor to be thought of like that....It's not been easy to maintain your art career while you're a college professor. It was really quite a difficult feat to maintain those two careers. What's nice about all of this now is to have done it, because if I had not sustained it I could not have gone to it full time.

I don't think that my work would have the same significance, the same depth, had I not done it or tried to do the work after I retired.



Leo Twiggs

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