

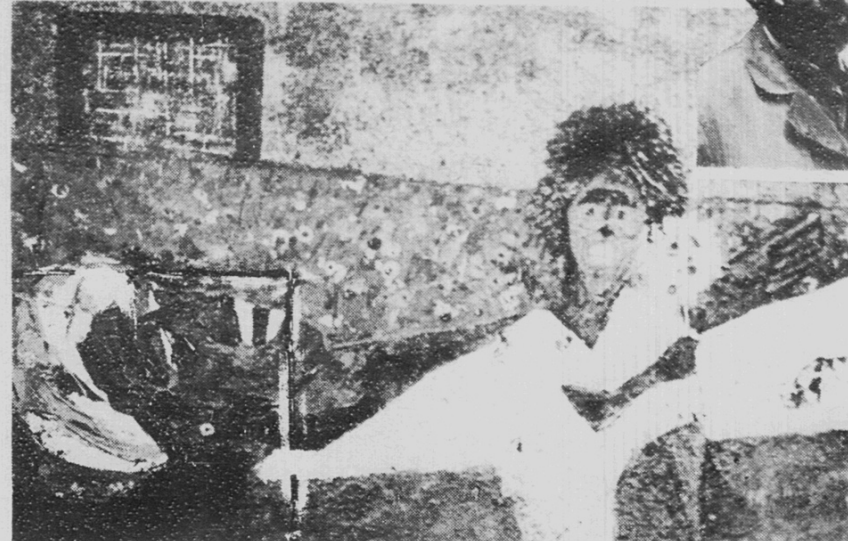
ALEXANDRE

Headline: Black Art: Vincent Smith Afrikan Painter In America

Article Type: News/Opinion

Black New Ark (Newark, New Jersey) • May 1, 1973 • Page 10

BLACK ART: VINCENT SMITH- AFRIKAN PAINTER IN AMERICA



The ingenious art of Brother Vincent Smith.

The following is a comment by Imamu Amiri Baraka on the recent exhibition of works by Vincent Smith at The Larcada Gallery:

“If Vincent Smith would tell you how old he is you could say whether or not he is an old or young master. He is a Master of craft and expression, as they are ineluctably harmonized in true creative motion. Vincent Smith’s is an art of the depth—an art of the black signaling depth, openly stating its cultural parameters, but not as limitation but as standard, against which to measure the atomic magnitude of emotional diversity that shapes the world. Brothers stand and stare, Sisters smile a little, buildings hang stiff in Smith-Space, Flowers glow indelibly into the consciousness, civil rights leaders and militants are caught in paint like fixed artifacts of the black creative aesthetice, their politics collected forever in colors and forms.

The most arresting aspect of

Smith’s work is his high blood sens color. Everything he points out color. Clothes, faces, streets, skysuns. Canvasses bathed in red yellows, bright oranges. And it is color, even in prints, that sets work apart, yet connects it to Afrikan Personality, and the traditional use and appreciation of color all Black art. A tradition as broad as Jake Lawrence or the exteriors of Sudanese dwellings. The contemporary scenes Smith constructs hold stillness about them as real and solemn as the masks and statuary of the Afrikan Continent. These faces are the masks and statues of Afrikan in America. Smith’s work itself is part of the reconstruction of Afrikan culture in the West, alive and permanent, constantly evolving, unified and collective, it is an art that demands depth from us to go beyond the tone the poet-painter creates. The underlying **Free Black** communication of his work. Smith’s work says **Look Inside!**

291 Grand Street, New York, New York 10002

25 East 73rd Street, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10021 212.755.2828 alexandregallery.com

ALEXANDRE GALLERY ALEXANDRE FINE ART INC. ESTABLISHED 1996