

African artwork on display at MSC

By CATHERINE CAMPBELL
Reporter

In keeping with Black History month, the MSC Gallery is exhibiting Ugandan artist Dan Sekanwagi's stylized "batik paintings" which portray life in African tribes.

"I'm trying to tell you people about Africa," Sekanwagi said Friday. "How we live, make our food, make our drinks, and how we get our water."

Apparently, people like what Sekanwagi is telling them with his batiks as the gallery's guest registry virtually glows with praise for his work and talent.

The remarks from gallery visitors include: "marvelous shading!" "full of life, color and movements," "masterpieces!" "best exhibit to come to Texas A&M yet," "makes me homesick," and "makes me want to defect to Kenya!"

Sekanwagi, a self-taught artist, has shied away from the

classic batik methods and has developed his own technique of batik, which he calls "batik painting."

Instead of dripping paint on wax-coated fabric — as is done in traditional batiks — Sekanwagi applies his special dyes directly to the cloth with brushes, painting and outlining the shapes within his batiks. He then coats those finished segments of a batik with wax to prevent staining them while he continues working on the batik's other areas.

Sekanwagi, a professional artist for the past seven years, said he likes to use his batiks to depict Ugandan culture, folklore and mythical African stories involving buried treasures and ghosts.

In his batiks, Sekanwagi said, he also tries to encourage African young people to go back to working the land rather than leaving for the big cities where they think they can find jobs

and money. They often end up disappointed, Sekanwagi said. Sekanwagi, 30, originally worked with oil painting but reluctantly turned to batik in order to sell to tourists and to survive as a sidewalk vendor in Africa.

In Nairobi, Kenya, he's considered a celebrity artist. "There's nothing to it as far as the actual making (of a batik)," Sekanwagi said. "My work is controlled, I do exactly what I want to do with batik."

Gallery visitors stood nearby to listen as Sekanwagi described his shading techniques and the manner in which he titles his works. Several stopped to shake his hand and compliment him on the 26-piece exhibit.

Sekanwagi said that although he's not a political man, he felt he had to flee Africa in 1977 after events had become so tumultuous under Idi Amin's reign. "Things were just too bad for

a creative man," Sekanwagi said. "There was just no way I could have stayed in Uganda. I would miss it more if it were a safe place."

The program adviser for MSC Arts committee, Theresa Chiang, said Sekanwagi's batiks are more distinctive because they are precisely defined whereas in traditional batiks are usually blurry or hazy.

"I think (Sekanwagi) describes the contemporary African tribal scenes very well as it does represent one phase of African culture," Chiang said. "His work is contemporary."

Sekanwagi's exhibit was sponsored by both the MSC Arts Committee and the MSC Black Awareness Committee.

Chiang said that although Se-

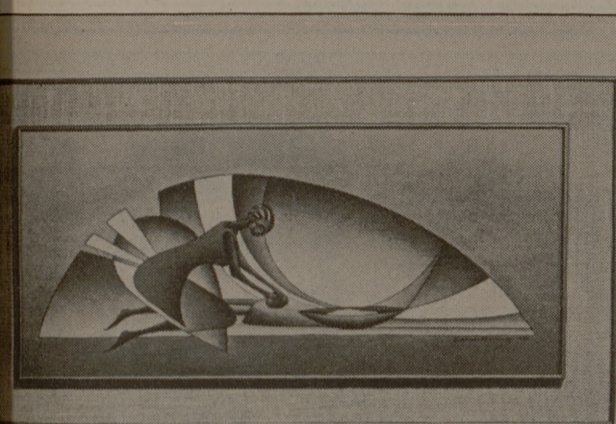
kanwagi's batiks are for sale, the MSC Gallery is not run like a commercial gallery. No prices are listed in the gallery.

Anyone interested in buying a Sekanwagi batik should contact Chiang at 845-1515. Prices range from \$300 to \$1,000, Chiang said.

Sekanwagi's works have been on exhibit in such places as London, Nairobi, Washington D.C. and Limburg, Belgium.

The Sekanwagi exhibit will be in the Memorial Student Center until Feb. 26. After that, Sekanwagi plans to take his works to Austin and Houston for more exhibits.

"I like the way people like my work," Sekanwagi said. "I think I express myself very simply and expressively."



AFRICAN ART
BY
SEKANWAGI

Escaped convicts killed man, still loose

United Press International
KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Two escaped convicts killed a retired salesman grilling steaks in his back yard, abducted his wife and broke out of a dragnet by driving 400 miles across the state before freeing the wife unharmed Wednesday.

"I hope we get them before somebody else gets killed," said Shelby County Chief Deputy Keith Westmoreland in Bristol. Elizabeth "Bo" Windrow, 57, told Knoxville police the fugitives left her lying on the floorboard of her car at a rest stop at 6 a.m. in a waiting car, she said, but she was too frightened to look.

The search for Ronald Freeman, 41, and James Clegg, 30, moved from west Tennessee to a mountainous area around Bristol along the Tennessee-Gorgia border.

"These men are extremely dangerous," said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent David Davenport. "They made general statements that they will be taken alive."

The reign of terror that led

Windrow's husband to put a pistol in his belt Tuesday night before he went out to grill steaks moved swiftly eastward with the fugitives. Westmoreland said his office received at least 20 calls from frightened Bristol residents within a few hours of word that the fugitives might be headed their way.

Westmoreland said officers in Bristol were patrolling three neighborhoods where Clegg once lived, knocking on doors and telling residents to watch out for suspicious people.

"We're watching these areas pretty close because we know he's still got friends living there," he said.

Knoxville Police Chief Robert Marshall said Windrow was "trying to help us, but bless her heart, she just doesn't know anything."

"She knows that a female must have come and picked them up because they were talking about it in the car on the drive. But she didn't see the car and she didn't see the woman."

"They did not mistreat her," Marshall said. "They told her they didn't want to hurt her."

Freeman, serving 198 years for two murders, and Clegg, serving life as an habitual criminal, were among five convicts who picked up pistols left for them in a work field and escaped Fort Pillow prison in West Tennessee Saturday.

They took two families hostage briefly, harming none of them, and opened fire on their pursuers twice. They hid from manhunters in the forests around Brownsville, Tenn. One was believed to have fled the area in a stolen car. Another was arrested hitchhiking on a highway Sunday and a third was talked into surrendering Tuesday by an elderly woman who fed him breakfast and preached to him.

Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Taylor in Brownsville said dogs lost the men's tracks Sunday. "Evidently they had doubled back. They were in a hole back there. There was one little spot we didn't get" in the search, he said.

Lester Province, an attendant at a service station from which Windrow called police Wednesday morning, said she told him

the convicts said they had been hiding in a hole they dug on the Windrow farm. "They said a helicopter hovered right over the top of them but didn't see them," Province said.

Brownsville area citizens had been fearful of the convicts for three days and Mrs. Windrow said her husband had a .45 caliber pistol in his belt.

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