

African Worlds at Dal

By H. Hueston

A large crowd came to the art show opening last Thursday. But it wasn't the usual crowd who frequent galleries. The African art exhibit signalled the beginning of two months of celebrations of **African Worlds** — a world to which many native black Nova Scotians belong, joined to it by the imagery of the art.

As the reception's guest speaker poet Maxine Tynes noted, "being here tonight fills my heart, to be here with my extended community." To a chorus of knowing laughs Tynes added, "It's good to see my people on *this* side of the harbour, in *this* side of the isthmus, in the bowels of the south end," a reference to the unofficial segregation of Nova Scotia's black population in Dartmouth and the Prestons. In Halifax city, the Commons was the traditional buffer between the black and white communities until the 1950's and black people seldom entered the South End except on business.

To the background music of the North Preston Baptist Choir, guests wandered around the examples of West African art originally made as part of tribal ceremonies and domestic life.

The exhibit consists of over 60 sculptural pieces grouped by function and country of origin.

In the words of the gallery, the show focusses on the "poetic capacity" of the artist to make a functional item which is also a work of art and culture. The power, beauty and abstract essentials of African art are evident in every grouping. Two cases which caught my eye were the female figu-

rines carried by Ghanaian women to induce pregnancy and another of elaborate and dignified ceremonial pipes.

Bringing the Kingston-based Lang collection to Halifax was the dream of African Studies director Tim Shaw. A committee worked for two years to plan not only the transfer of the exhibit, but also a broad range of lecture series, videos, and cultural events linking the whole black community in metro.

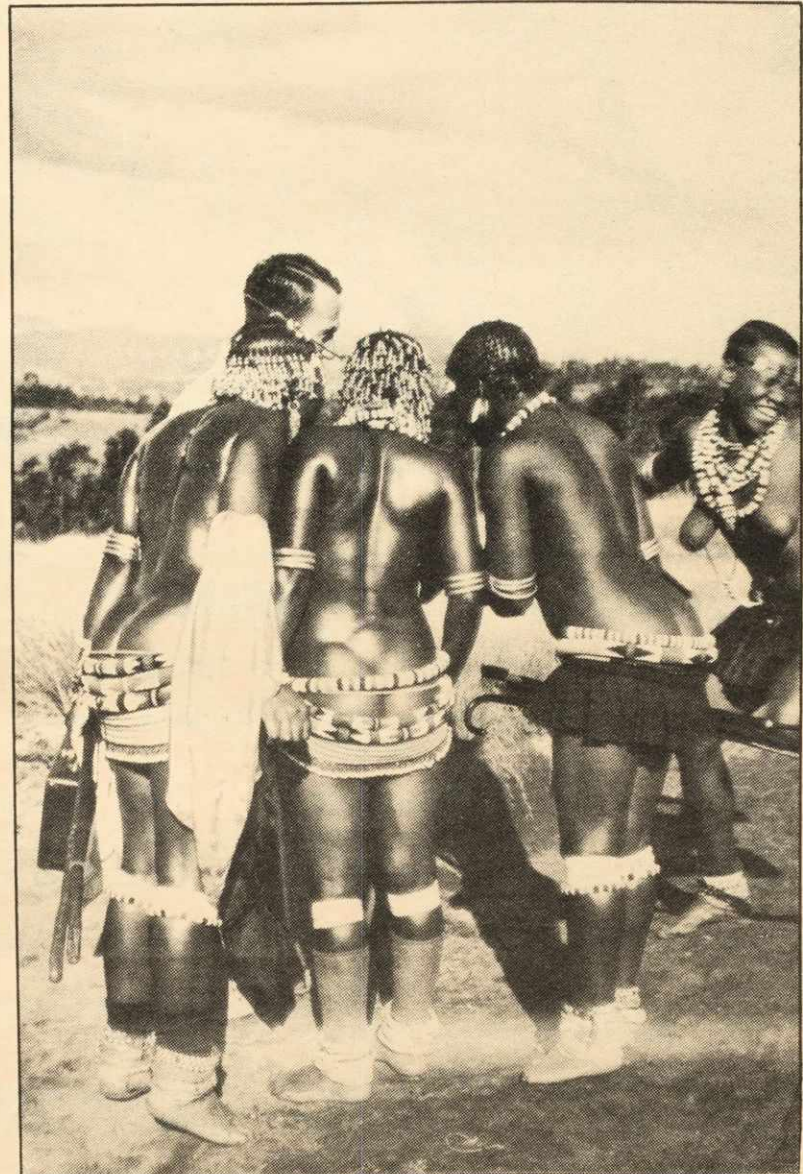
Program coordinator Gabrielle Beckerman says it was "natural" to make **African Worlds** a community event.

"It was a conscious effort to spread the events around and involve the community."

As Maxine Tynes put it in her conclusion, "Let us walk the bridge of art, let us be found, let us enjoy."

Upcoming highlights of **African Worlds** include a lecture by a former Globe and Mail South African correspondent on his disillusionment with Botha's propaganda machine October 14 at 8 p.m.; a poetry reading by Maxine Tynes on September 29 at 8 p.m.; *The Africans*, a nine-part video documentary showing Tuesdays at 8 p.m. from September 13 to November 1 at the Black Cultural Centre; and the Killam Lecture series on Africa, Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the Dal Arts Centre.


Visual Variations: African Sculpture from the Justin and Elisabeth Lang Collection. September 8 to October 16 at the Dalhousie Art Gallery.



Zulu women wearing beaded belt skirts. These skirts were specially designed to enhance the buttocks, considered of primary beauty in Bantu women. The beadwork is on display as part of the African Art from Private Collections display.




Photo courtesy Dal Art Gallery



STUDENTS' SPECIAL

Every Thursday Night
Until October 15




Sup, Suds
(Burger)
& Show

\$ 8.00
with valid student I.D.

1567 Grafton St.
421-1038

Reservations a Must



Doane Raymond
Chartered Accountants

People count.

Five good reasons why people choose a career with Doane Raymond.
For further information, contact your Canada Employment Centre on campus.

"Clients have often told me how our information, guidance and ideas contributed to their success. They respect and trust their CAs advice."
Paul Dietrich, CA
Toronto, Ont.

"I considered other firms but I wanted responsibility and a variety of experience early in my career. Doane Raymond offered that."
Craig Wilmot, CA
Truro, N.S.

"Having just completed the firm's UFE prep course, I now know why our writers enjoy one of the highest pass rates in Canada."
Alan Dyck
Vancouver, B.C.

"With Doane Raymond you regularly deal with an organization's decision-makers. These are exciting and educational relationships."
Rick Popel, CA
Winnipeg, Man.

"The office atmosphere is informal and personal. I work with some very dynamic and outgoing professionals."
Lisa Howard, CA
Edmonton, Alta.

