

Some Wonderful Gift Ideas

Sameera Hanif reviews an exhibition of crafts in Fredericton

A couple of days ago, I was down at the Regent Craft Gallery and happily viewed the Out of Africa Heritage exhibit.

This exhibit was brought to the gallery from the private collection of Morra Gesicho. All the items of the exhibit are made in different localities around Africa including Gusii, Ulcambani, Bogene, Kikuyuni, and Nairobi. The wonderful creations consisted of Kisii soapstones, wood carvings, pastel on leafs, woven baskets and trap, and jewelry.

The soapstones were quite interesting and I was almost horrified to look at them for fear they may be the same as the ones at the National Exhibition Centre which I had previously reviewed, and reviewed in depth. No, I was not bored or disappointed in the soapstones at all. These particular soapstones were smooth

pinkish grey which depicted swans, women carrying vases, and a few African men. There were also a few plates, vases and a candlestick holder. However, my favourite was the smooth circular carving of a man in a sitting position conveying the idea of deep philosophical thought.

There were also several wooden animals. There were wooden creations of giraffes, zebras, hippos, rhinoceros, lions, and elephants. The elephants' tusks did not consist of real ivory, but plastic elephants because elephants have to be killed to acquire it and they are growing more and more endangered.

There were also miniatures of these wooden animals on top of wooden circles which I was convinced were barrels until someone pointed out they were napkin holders. They are

selling quite well.

The colourful jewelry really caught my eye and the prices were good for authentic African jewelry - a mere \$9.95 for earrings and \$15.00 for necklaces. The earrings consisted of wooden animals, glass and plastic beads, and pieces of circular, square and triangular metal. All those earring dazzled my eyes because, being displayed together, they created an intensely bright mish-mash of colour. The necklaces were intricately woven beads which were mostly white, blue, red and black.

The bracelets consisted of brass and copper. They were beautifully woven together out of two or three different colors of metal which were copper, silver, and gold.

Some things that would look wonderful on anyone's bedroom wall were the prints. The

prints were woven out of a very flat variety of African grass and they were framed on black cloth. The pictures on the prints were made out of thin slices of wood firmly glued onto the background. The prints consisted of various themes such as elephants, zebras, and birds and people preparing food in their villages. My favorite print that of two elephants - a mother and baby - staring directly out at the creator (sic).

And last but not least were the African baskets and handbags. The baskets were made out of lightly woven straw, and were trimmed with green, purple and fuchsia colours. I preferred the handbags myself.

The handbags were made with more intriguing colours and complicated patterns, they also were much stronger in that the straps were made out of brick-red leather and the weaving was much stronger.

This exhibit has been on for the last two weeks and will continue on until Christmas. As you can see the gift ideas are endless and endlessly fun! I mean... who wouldn't be thrilled to pieces at the prospect of unwrapping a rhino, or a giraffe or even a soapstone carving of a deeply philosophical man?

Sameera Hanif

CHSR PROGRAMMING

PROGRAM	DAYS	TIME
AFRICAN	M	9AM
	SU	6PM
CHINESE	SU	9AM
CHRISTIAN	SU	3PM
CLASSICAL	M	10:15AM
	TU	9AM
	TH	9AM
	SU	4PM
	TU	9PM
COUNTRY	F	9PM
DANCE/ACID	W	5:30PM
	M	7:30PM
FOLK	SU	11PM
HARDCORE	SU	7PM
INDIAN	SU	9PM
INDUSTRIAL	F	9AM
JAZZ	SA	4:30
	TH	12AM
METAL	F	1:30PM
	SA	6PM
	TH	10AM
MOTOWN/SOUL	SA	9AM
	SU	2PM
MALAYSIAN	TU	7:30PM
REGGAE	SA	10PM
	TH	7PM
ARTS WEEKLY	TH	7PM
AFRICAN SHORT	M	10AM
STORIES	W	9AM
FINE LINES	W	9AM
	TU	7PM
A HARD RAIN	TH	1PM
CONSIDER THE	F	1PM
ALTERNATIVES	SU	5:45PM
PEACE/CONFLICT	SU	5:45PM
RADIO PROJECT	SU	5:45PM
UN PERSPECTIVE	SU	5:45PM
	M	7PM
DIALOGUE ON ADDICTIONS	W	1PM
	SA	11:30AM
RIGHTS NOW	SA	4PM
WIMMINS SHOW	SA	4PM
L'ACADIE	SU	8:30PM
VOICE OF THE	SU	8:30PM
EAGLEFEATHER	SU	8:30PM
	M-F	12PM
LUNCH BOX	M	1PM
ALL OUR VOICES	TU	1PM
FROM A DIFFERENT	TU	1PM
PERSPECTIVE	W	6:30PM
SRC LIVE!	F	12:30PM
RADIO FARABUNDO	F	12:30PM
MARTI	F	5:30PM
EUROPEAN PROFILE	SU	11:45AM
	M-SU	8PM
BBC NEWS	M-F	8AM
MAJOR CASTS	M-F	9AM
		12PM
		12:45PM
		5PM
		5:30PM
		12:45PM
		6PM
	SA-SU	

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