

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark Harris, DIXIE ART COLONY FOUNDATION, 334-328-0730 | E-mail: M.Harris@DixieArtColony.org

December 13, 2018

Dixie Art Colony Foundation partial schedule for the year 2019

Wetumpka, Alabama—The Dixie Art Colony Foundation will kickoff their 2019 schedule with a **"Lunch & Learn"** program at 11:30 am on **Thursday, January 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wetumpka, Alabama**. The January program will also serve as an introduction for a series of events about Alabama's participation in the Great Depression-Era Federal Art Projects. According to Mark Harris, President and Director of the Dixie Art Colony Foundation, there are four treasures tucked away in the city of Wetumpka that were painted in 1942 as part of one the Federal New Deal Art Projects. The four mural-sized oil paintings were originally painted for the Post Library at Maxwell Field in nearby Montgomery. Harris continued, "The paintings were rescued by Elmore County Superintendent of Education Ross McQueen in 1964 after the Post Library at what is now called Maxwell Air Force Base was demolished to make room for new construction." Harris, a graduate of Wetumpka High School said he remembers when the large paintings hung in the old WHS auditorium located on West Tallassee Street. Harris who also fondly remembers Mr. McQueen explained, "My understanding is that when the paintings were placed in the custody of the Elmore County Board of education in 1964, it was with the stipulation that the paintings would not be separated in future. The four paintings illustrate important events in Alabama's history.

Through extensive research which began in 2013, Harris, with the assistance of Karen Henricks, Ph.D., was the first to identify that the Elmore County Board of Education paintings were created through Alabama's arm of the New Deal Federal Art Projects. He was also able to confirm that E. Herndon Smith, then director of the W.P.A. Art Projects for the state of Alabama and a major player in the development of the paintings was a participant in Elmore County's Dixie Art Colony. Other artists that assisted in the development of the paintings were Pvt. Harlyn G. Dickinson, Cpl. Mario Pagano and Pvt. Joseph Becker, all three were stationed at Maxwell Field.

Part of the DAC Foundation's mission is to research, collect, document, and preserve the history related to the Dixie Art Colony and the artists that participated. As part of the DAC Foundation's quest to inform and educate the public about this important part of Alabama's history, the series of programs about Alabama's Great Depression-Era public art projects will continue through the year 2020. Through these programs, the DAC Foundation will share details about each of the four artists involved in the Elmore County Board of Education paintings, photographs and newspaper clippings related to the paintings, and presentations about Federal Art Projects completed by three other Dixie Art Colony artists. Karen Henricks, Ph.D., a retired art historian and leading expert about Alabama's participation in the New Deal Federal Art Projects, will assist with the programs. Henricks is also member of the DAC Foundation's Advisory Council.

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PARTIAL LISTING OF DAC FOUNDATION 2019 EVENTS

- **JANUARY:** *Alabama's New Deal Federal Art Projects: Part I:* This program will serve as an introduction for a two-year series of events about Alabama's Federal Art Projects. This program will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wetumpka on Thursday, January 17 from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.
- **FEBRUARY:** *Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce "After Hours Open House"* at the DAC Museum & Gallery located at 219 Hill Street in downtown Wetumpka. Details will follow soon.
- **MARCH:** *Alabama's New Deal Federal Art Projects: Part II: Wetumpka's New Deal Murals.* This program will be held on a Saturday afternoon. Details will follow soon.
- **APRIL:** *Tour of an Arthur Stewart Private Collection:* This Thursday evening event will be held at the home of Arthur Stewart's nephew in Birmingham, Alabama.
- **MAY:** *Walk Where They Walked at Nobles Ferry:* This open house event will be held on a Saturday and will include plein air painting by participants in the "DAC: A New Generation" project.
- **JUNE:** *Annual Tallassee NOW Dixie Art Colony Exhibition:* The 2019 exhibition will include some exciting changes, and the addition of an educational program. This event will be held on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8 in downtown Tallassee.
- **JULY:** *Alabama's New Deal Federal Art Projects: Part III:* This field-trip program will include a tour of two of Alabama's New Deal Post Office murals, one of which was painted by a participant in the Dixie Art Colony. Details will follow soon.
- **AUGUST:** *All About Warree Carmichael LeBron:* This program will feature DAC artist and co-founder Warree Carmichael LeBron and will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church. Details will follow soon.
- **SEPTEMBER:** *DAC Foundation, Our Long-Range Plans:* As the DAC Foundation approaches its fourth year anniversary in November 2019, this program which will highlight the foundation's plans for the future.
- **OCTOBER:** *The Deatsville Connection:* This program and exhibition will feature artwork by DAC artists that depict scenes of Deatsville and storyboards about the history of Deatsville. The exhibition and program will be held on a Saturday in a historic pre-Civil War church located in Deatsville, Alabama. This site was one of the many locations where the DAC artists painted during the 1930s and 1940s. There will also be plein air painting by participants in the "DAC: A New Generation" project.

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- **NOVEMBER:** *Walk Where They Walked at the Farm:* This "Lunch & Learn" event will be held on a Saturday and will include plein air painting by participants in the "DAC: A New Generation" project. Our 2018 visit to the farm was cancelled due to undesirable weather conditions.
- **NOVEMBER:** *A Salute to Veterans Day:* This event will be held on Monday, November 11 at Trinity Episcopal Church in conjunction with Trinity's Annual Musical Tribute to Veterans. This exhibition will feature four Dixie Art Colonists that served in WWI and WWII. New components will be added for the 2019 exhibition.
- **DECEMBER:** *DAC Forth Annual Yuletide Open House:* This event will be held at the DAC Museum & Gallery located at 219 Hill Street in downtown Wetumpka.

All programs and dates are subject change. More details about these events and other events not listed will be released in early 2019. To learn more about the Dixie Art Colony Foundation visit: DixieArtColony.org

See page 4 , 5 and 6 for related photographs.

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Surrender of Weatherford, Creek Indian, to Andrew Jackson – 1814

E. Herndon Smith, Pvt. Harlyn G. Dickinson, Cpl. Mario Pagano and Pvt. Joseph Becker; oil on panel, 1942, 96" x 84"

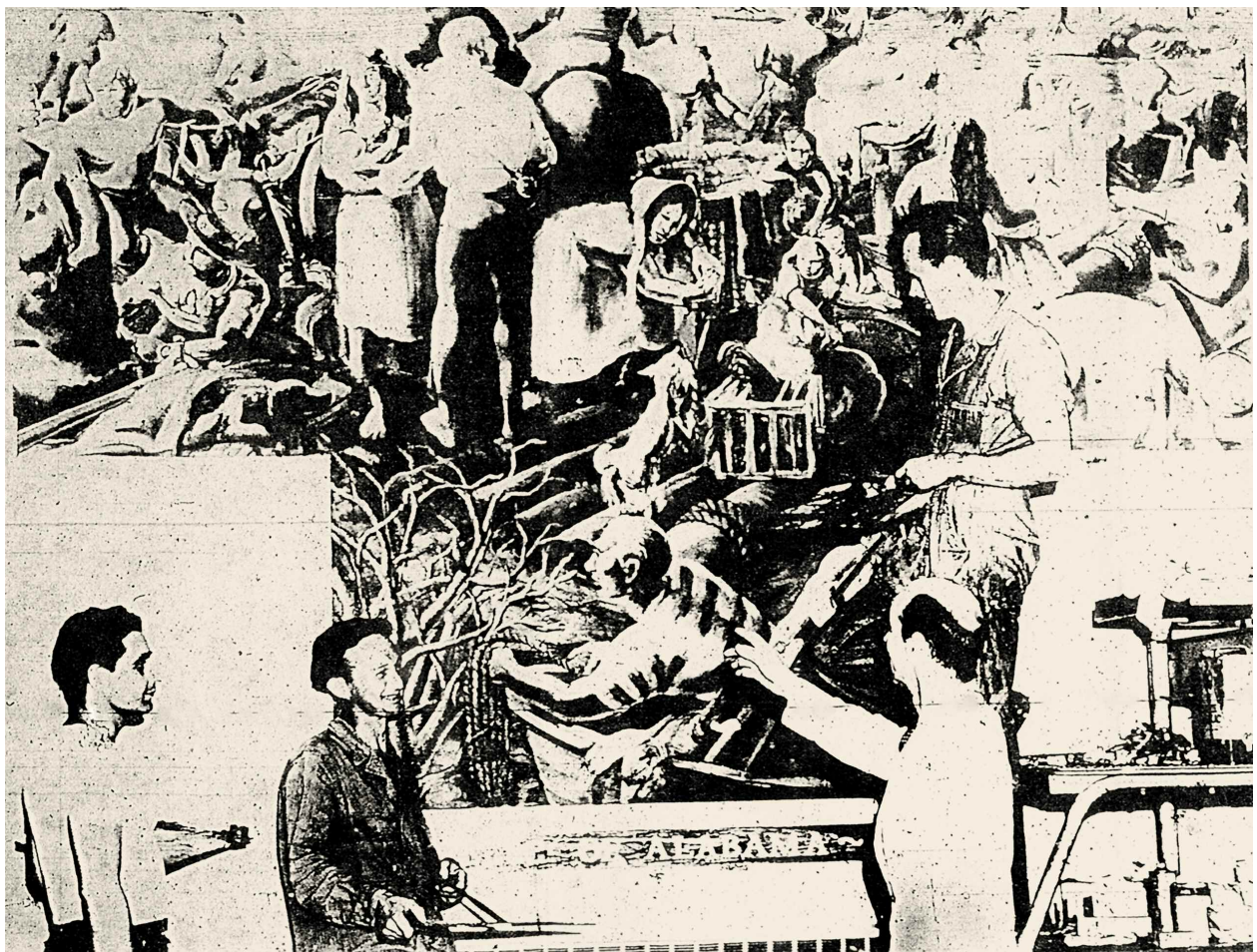
Provided courtesy of the DAC Foundation.

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E. HERNDON SMITH: DAC Participant and State Supervisor of Alabama Federal Art Projects
Pointing at the mural titled "Settlers of Alabama-1820."

Also pictured right, Artist Sgt. Harlyn Grout Dickinson, and left assistant artists Cpl. Mario Pagano and Pvt. Joseph Becker.

Provided courtesy of the DAC Foundation.

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John Kelly Fitzpatrick, "Cotton," Oil on Canvas. This mural which was painted at the Dixie Art Colony at Nobles Ferry in Elmore County for installation in the Phenix City, AL post office in 1939 is pictured in the DAC studio. A visit to see the original painting will be included in one of the DAC Foundation's upcoming field trips.

Provided courtesy of the DAC Foundation.