

JUL 24 2003

Lyrical Lines: The Works of
Obiora Udechukwu
and Ada Udechukwu

**Related exhibition at
Guilford College Art Gallery
January 24 - April 20, 2003**

Landscape of Memory (detail)

Obiora Udechukwu

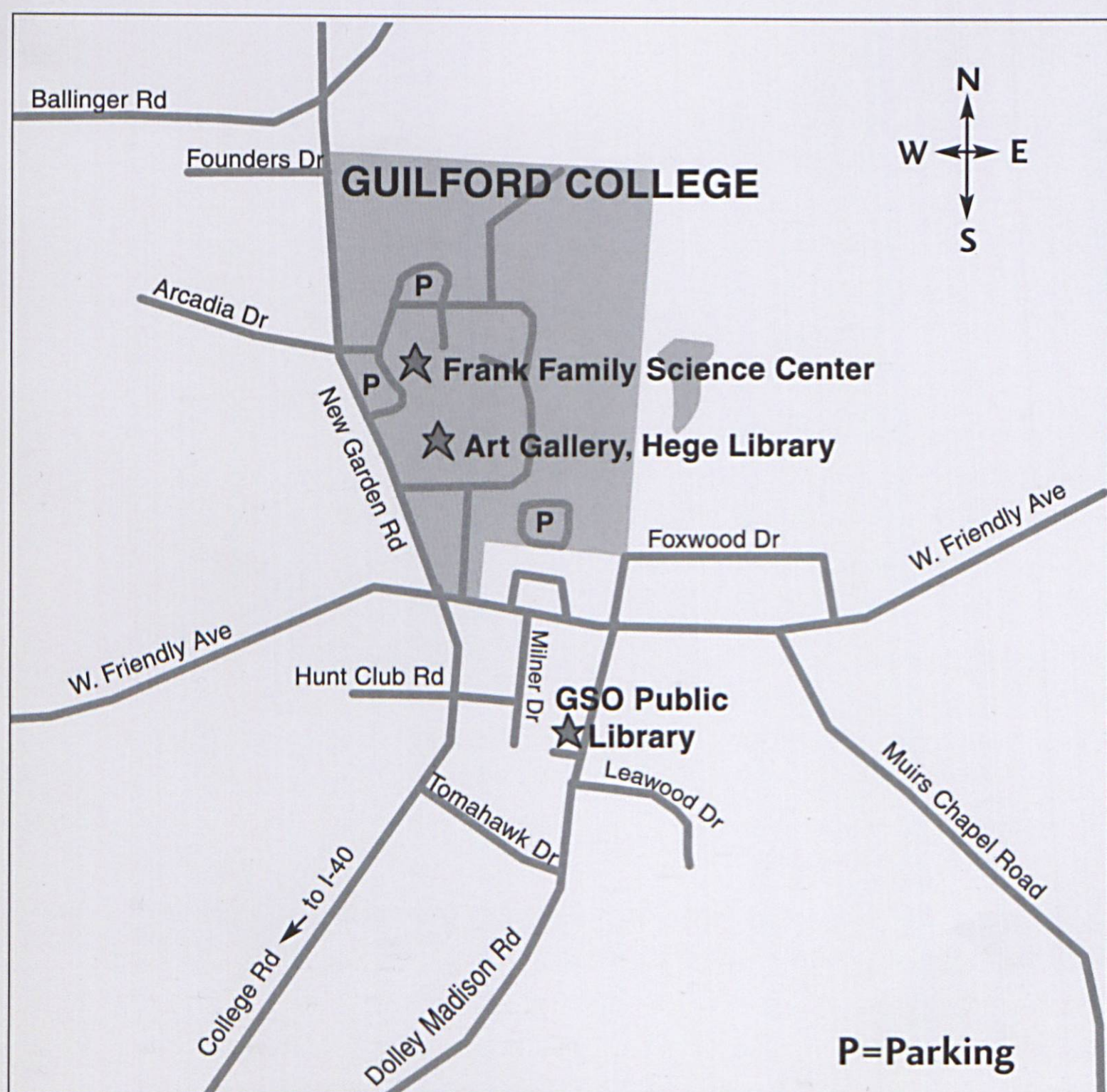
Co-sponsored by the Guilford College Library and Art Gallery, *Igbo Visions: Art, Literature and an African Culture's Values* is the first in a biennial series that will examine the art, literature and values of specific world cultures. Initiated by the Friends of the Guilford College Library, the program draws on three special features of Guilford College – the location of the college's Art Gallery in Hege Library, the curriculum's strong emphasis on international and intercultural studies and the Quaker emphasis on ethical issues – to explore the relationship of literature and art in expressing cultural values.

Igbo Visions brings to Greensboro three major contemporary interpreters of the Igbo culture of eastern Nigeria, novelist T. Obinkaram Echewa, poet-artist Obiora Udechukwu and poet-artist Ada Udechukwu for four days of public programming designed to consider the interconnect-edness of art and literature as expressions of cultural values and the impact globalization has had on one of Nigeria's major ethnic communities. While in the Triad, the participants will also meet with classes from Guilford College and area schools.

Event Locations

Guilford College • 5800 West Friendly Avenue • Greensboro

Greensboro Public Library - Guilford College Branch • 619 Dolley Madison Road • Greensboro



Map of event locations

Directions to Guilford College Art Gallery and Hege Library:

From Interstate 40 in Greensboro, N.C., take exit 213, Guilford College/Jamestown. Turn north on Guilford College Road and proceed approximately two miles. Cross West Friendly Avenue (stay in right lane). Turn right at the first traffic light after West Friendly onto campus. Hege Library, which houses the Art Gallery, is the first building on the left.

Visitor parking spaces are adjacent to the library; additional parking is available behind Dana Auditorium, and at the Arcadia Drive entrance to the college.

For directions to Guilford College from other areas, please call **336-316-2438**, or visit our Web site at www.guilford.edu/directions.cfm



A Journey of Several Centuries

Obiora Udechukwu

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, March 18, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19, 3:30-5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.

Friday March 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

All free and open to the public.

Video screenings of *The Poetics of Line: Seven Artists of the Nsukka Group*, and *Nigerian Art: Kindred Spirits*
Betty Place Digital Classroom, Hege Library, Guilford College

Artists' walk-through of exhibition, *Lyrical Lines: The Works of Obiora Udechukwu and Ada Udechukwu*
Guilford College Art Gallery, Hege Library

Slide lecture, *The Past in the Present: Uli Art Today*
Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Auditorium, Frank Family Science Center, Guilford College

Igbo Folklore, Literature and Values, discussion among
T. Obinkaram Echewa, Obiora Udechukwu and Ada Udechukwu
Greensboro Public Library, Guilford College Branch,
Quaker Village, 373-2923

Readings by T. Obinkaram Echewa, Obiora Udechukwu
and Ada Udechukwu
Greensboro Public Library, Guilford College Branch,
Quaker Village, 373-2923

Igbo Visions: Art, Literature and an African Culture's Values
panel discussion moderated by Dr. Colleen E. Kriger,
associate professor of African history, UNCG
Carnegie Room, Hege Library, Guilford College

See reverse side for map and directions. Additional information may be obtained by calling
336-316-2129 or 336-316-2438

Igbo Visions: Art, Literature and an African Culture's Values

A joint project of the Guilford College Library and Art Gallery

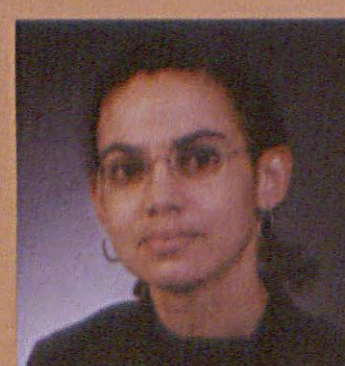
Participants



T. Obinkaram Echewa, author of *I Saw the Sky Catch Fire*, *The Crippled Dancer*, *The Land's Lord*, and children's book, *The Ancestor Tree*, is professor of English at West Chester University. Drawing upon traditional religion, folklore, and history, his works interpret the Igbo experience in a manner accessible to a non-African audience. *I Saw the Sky Catch Fire* uses the incident of the "Aba Women's War" of 1930 to explore Igbo resistance to forced cultural change under colonial rule and its impact on the status of women in a contemporary African society.



Obiora Udechukwu, one of the major contemporary artists to come from Nigeria, is presently Dana professor of international studies and fine arts at St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y. Prior to coming to St. Lawrence in the fall of 1997, Udechukwu was professor of drawing and painting at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he received his B.A. and M.F.A. in painting. Internationally known, he has exhibited work in a number of countries. His paintings, drawings and prints (and his wife Ada's paintings and textiles) were included in the group exhibition, "The Poetics of Line: Seven Artists of the Nsukka Group," held at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. This group, associated with the Department of Fine & Applied Arts at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, have reinterpreted the tradition Igbo designed called *uli* (body and wall paintings that feature curvilinear designs and symbols). Udechukwu is also known for his poetry, and selections of his and Ada's poetry will be featured in both the Gallery exhibition and their public presentations.



Ada Udechukwu is one of the few women artists associated with the Nsukka group. She considers herself primarily a poet, however. Boomerang Press (Bayreuth, Germany) published her book of poetry, *Woman, me* in 1993. Self-taught in the visual arts, she earned her B.A. in English and literature from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in 1981. Born to an Igbo father and an American mother in the city of Enugu in Igboland, the artist is "extremely aware of her allegiance both to Nigeria and Igbo culture and her sense of identity with America." Her visual media, which express many of the same personal qualities as her poetry, include painting on textiles and designing fashions, along with painting and drawing on paper.

This project is funded by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Funding was also received from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Friends of the Guilford College Library, the Nigerian Association of the Triad, the Oganiru Cultural Association and Friends of the Greensboro Public Library provided additional support.



Untitled

Ada Udechukwu





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Guilford College presents

Igbo Visions: Art, Literature and an African Culture's Values

March 18 - 21, 2003