

Hampton gallery features work of retired Eastern art professor

TRACI HASTINGS

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

HAMPTON — A former art professor is the featured artist at a Hampton gallery.

Lula Mae Blocton, who taught at Eastern Connecticut State University, is being featured at the Top Shelf Gallery during the months of March and April.

Blocton, a resident of Hampton, is known for vibrant geometric abstract art. She uses oils and wax-based colored pencils in her work.

Recently, her abstracts have also represented the African-American experience, with inspiration taken from African art and patterns.

Blocton's work has been displayed within the Connecticut State University System, Indiana University and the Prudential Life Insurance Co., and has been featured at the Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art and the Albright Knox Museum.

Born in Michigan, Aldrich received her bachelor's of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan and her master's of fine arts degree from Indiana University.

At ECSU, she was named the chairperson of the Visual Arts Department and the Fine Arts Department, and retired with emeritus status in 2013. Since then, she has focused on her art

Special Neighbor



Artist Lula Mae Blocton, who taught at Eastern Connecticut State University, is currently being featured at Hampton's Top Shelf Gallery during March and April. Courtesy of Lula Mae Blocton

full time.

Blocton has been a delegate through the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program of Art Educators, traveling to Egypt, Israel and Turkey through the program.

She has also visited and studied art

collections and architecture in England, France, Holland, Kenya, Peru and Tanzania.

Blocton said her themes are centered around two constants, the first, "a love of art, formal, precise, (and) abstract" and the second, "a concern for human dignity and civil rights."

Her show opened March 4.

Blocton said her themes are centered around 'a love of art, formal, precise, (and) abstract' and 'a concern for human dignity and civil rights.'

"It should be very good," said Janice Trecker, one of the director on the library's Board of Trustees.

The Top Shelf Gallery is located in the Fletcher Memorial Library at 257 Main St./Route 97.

For more information about the exhibit, call the main desk at 860-455-1086. For more information on Blocton's work, visit her website at www.blocton.com.