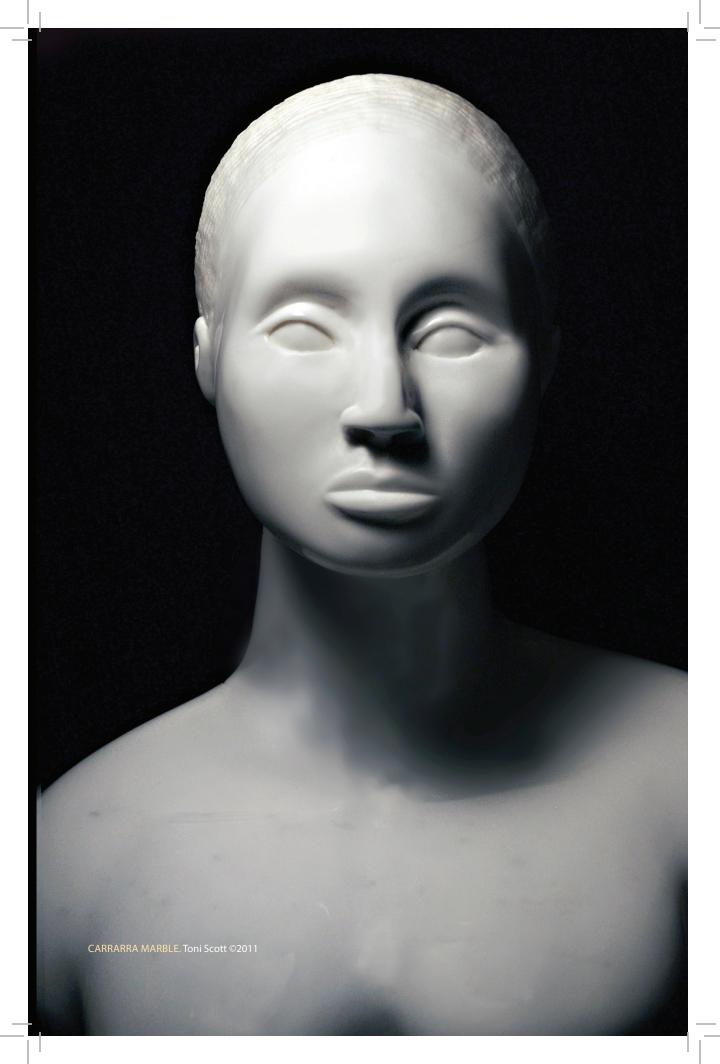
# BLOODLI SOMBRA THE WORK OF TONI SCOTT FEBRUARY 7-APRIL 26, 2013 **WOMENS' HEALING RITUALS IN THE** The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum DIASPORA Photo: Toni Scott, Eve



# ABOUT THE ROBERT SALLIE BROWN **GALLERY MUSEUM**

The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is dedicated to the enrichment of visual culture on campus and in the community. The Brown Gallery supports the Stone Center's commitment to the critical examination of all dimensions of African-American and African diaspora cultures through formal exhibition of works of art, artifacts and material culture.

# ABOUT

(Excerpted from Toni Scott's "Bloodlines": Remembering Yesterday, Understanding Today, and Empowering Tomorrow By Paul Von Blum)



Bloodlines by Los Angeles sculptor, painter, and multi-media artist Toni Scott, combines life-size and smaller sculptures, paintings, montages, maps, genealogy tableaux, and other elements. This powerful artwork evokes the memories of slavery and its legacies in the United States.

Toni Scott is an African American artist of mixed ancestry who is committed to bringing the tragic story of the African American experience to her viewers, engaging them in a quest for deeper historical consciousness. Scott uses photography, graphic design, digital rendering, sculpture in resin,

plaster bandage, metal and wood, collage, fiber, cotton, burlap, ink, acrylic paint, moss and twine in an extraordinary fusion of forms and materials in this remarkable installation.

"Bloodlines" is an artwork with a vigorous historical vision. Its compelling fusion of visual elements and details emphasizes the past, generating a simultaneous intellectual comprehension of slavery and an emotional linkage to its human costs and consequences.

#### THE EXHIBIT IS SUPPORTED BY:

The Friends of the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Women's Studies at UNC Chapel Hill Carolina Women's Center Center for the Study of the American South at UNC at Chapel Hill American Indian Center at UNC at Chapel Hill

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

by Joseph Jordan



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The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery Series, La Sombra y el Espíritu II: Women's Healing Rituals in the Diaspora, brings noted Los Angeles multi-media artist Toni Scott to the Stone Center for it's Spring 2012 exhibition. Scott's show, Bloodlines: The Work of Toni Scott, is a personal and carefully executed exploration into the historical foundations of African Americans and their interest in recovery, remembrance, reconnecting and re-visioning. Scott's work accomplishes those tasks with sensitivity and humility. She has always conveyed a sensibility that belies her age—she might easily be seen as one who has a 'gift' or 'the sight' as the elders would say. Those attributes are rare

but they usually come easily to one that has developed a practice of grounded humanism that sees art as the possibility to transform lives. That is the first burden: to recognize those gifts. The second is to accept and attempt to deploy them in the interest of some greater good or some lesser evil when history demands compromises.

We selected Toni Scott for La Sombra II in recognition of her evolving vision, even though she has already established herself as a skilled and talented artist whose work is marked by an eye for subtlety and detail. It was important to us that she has accepted the challenge of additional burdens beyond those recounted above. She has parent that what I, or others, might have understood to be a burden of representation has been recast and re-presented along the lines of our theme of (in English) the shadow and the spirit.

With this exhibition we depart slightly from featuring artists who work, or who are presented, through one medium. Scott is an accomplished artist whose vision has been realized through a variety of media that has extended her expressive capacity as well as the possibilities for those expressions. Her presentation in the La Sombra y el Espíritu II also follows the aesthetic and thematic pattern that is at the heart of the series, which serves as an invitation to

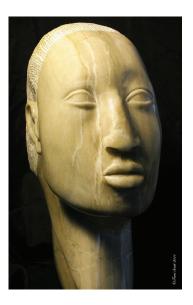
aspect of that which is seen but not seen?

Toni Scott has been enlisted as a guide and as an interpreter. For this exhibition she has also assumed the role of the cryptic historian who reveals the signs but leaves it to us to decipher the message. Hers is not an easy task; we are not always willing students, we are not always ready for revelations about 'those days'; about 'those times'.

This exhibition, Bloodlines: The Work of Toni Scott, beginning on the first day, at that opening moment, is the second 'healing ritual' that gets us past that un-readiness...that makes us comfortable with the shadow and the spirit.

## "When we speak of or invoke shadows do we veil the true image, or are we simply exploring another aspect of that which is seen but not seen?"

taken on, without complaint, the burden of representation – which, in return, obliges her to give herself over to the uncertainties and omissions that are so much a part of the history of African Americans and others whose histories have joined us at the hip, and at the root. As you transit through this show it will become immediately apour guest artists to take this opportunity to explore their personal relationship to the notion of a healing ritual. What could such a practice entail when connecting personal and community histories, diaspora, and spiritual strivings? When we speak of or invoke shadows do we veil the true image, or are we simply exploring another



"The Ugandan Inspiration, Kabakuru" Alabaster 18" x 8"Toni Scott ©2003

#### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

by Toni Scott

Bloodlines revisits forgotten histories and examines the road from slavery to the election of President Barack Obama. Utilizing historical images, narratives, and photographs, I visually offer a poignant and present-day look at the period and people who contributed to the making of America. Through sculpture, painting and digital renderings, real stories of courage, survival, and racism are explored.

The series was inspired by the years of research done by my uncle (maternal family) along with historical information and poignant stories told to me by my father about my Great Grandmother Fannie. Her story ignited the flame for knowledge and understanding of America's history regarding slavery and oppression.

The knowledge and names of those who were slaves in my family drives me to share their stories and their plight. Without them, I would not exist; these were exemplary human beings who were stripped of every human dignity.

As I learned more about slavery in my family, I also learned of the unconscionable deeds done to my Native American ancestors. Coming into my citizenship with the Muskogee Creek Indian Nation, I felt a closer connection to my ancestors.

I now know the Tribe; some of the faces and the history of my people.

Bloodlines is an ongoing series to preserve, examine and inspire dialog of America's past and present relating to race relations within communities and nationally. The exhibit rests on the "narratives" of the men and women that helped build this country; their sacrifices and survival and revealing the horrific history of slavery.

### **ARTIST BIOGRAPHY**

Toni Scott is as vibrant and passionate as her artwork. Toni is versatile artist working in various media, including sculpture, painting, photography and digital design. Toni has sought to express her love of God, Beauty, Humanity, and Culture in everything she creates.

Her work ranges from lifelike sculptures cast in bronze and fiberglass, to carvings in marble, alabaster, soapstone and douglas fir—wood from which she carves totem poles which stand over nine feet tall; Her paintings range from large scale colorful figurative works to masterful representational paintings in oil. Toni's multimedia work includes digital renderings, mixed media life size sculptures and thematic installations.

A multimedia artist, Toni studied the classic and contemporary masters, is a former student of the Otis College of Art and Design and has a BA from the University of Southern California.

#### **Contact:**

toniscott@earthlink.net www.toniscott.com



Toni Scott with sculptures. Photo by Cynthia Perry ©2008

# HISTORY AND OVERVIEW OF THE STONE CENTER

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a Center within the Academic Affairs Division under the Provost's Office, we play a central role in supporting the academic mission of the University. We have a commit-

ment to broaden the range of intellectual discourse about African Americans and to encourage a better understanding of the peoples of Africa and the African diaspora and their perspectives on important social and cultural issues.

