



Woman with Child Musician 48 x 55"

Ugandan artist's paintings on display

Fifty paintings of Ugandan artist Francis X. Nnaggenda are on display in the BioPharmaceutical Technology in the Fitchburg Research Park, 5445 E. Cheryl Parkway. The exhibit is free and open to the public during weekday business hours, and runs through the end of April.

Nnaggenda, an art professor at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, produced these paintings in Kenya between 1967 and '78. At the time, he was unable to return to Uganda because of Idi

Amin's regime. The state of turmoil is reflected in his work on display. During his exile he taught in Indiana, Texas, West Germany, and Kenya.

In 1995, Daniel Swedener, one of Nnaggenda's students from Indiana University-South Bend, met with Nnaggenda in east Africa. Swedener located the private garage in Nairobi, Kenya, where much of Nnaggenda's art had been stored. At least two of the panels were missing, evidently used as building material. Had Swedener located the property

a week later, the collection might have been destroyed.

With the help and support of Bill Linton, president and CEO of Promega Corp., the entire collection was purchased from Nnaggenda and brought to the U.S. Swedener arranged for Nnaggenda's return to Indiana University-South Bend in 1995. Last year Nnaggenda came to Madison, where he selected a tree for a seven-and-a-half-foot walnut sculpture that now graces the lobby of the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center.