

Joseph George, "Art: Creating Art with Line and Text", *The Scene*, February 26, 2014
THOMAS DANE GALLERY

The journey in the use of text in art continues at Gettysburg College's Schmucker Gallery with "Glen Ligon: Narratives." This suite of nine prints by internationally acclaimed contemporary artist Glen Ligon creatively uses the fonts and layout of 19th century slave narratives. Such narratives influenced works such as Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

These works rely solely on the use of words as art, placing the emphasis on the text to take the place of the traditional image. The prints mimic both the format and font of the title pages of the slave narratives and adopt their historical vernacular. The difference is the text relates to the artist's struggle as an African American in today's society.

Ligon's "Narratives" can be described as "textimony," the use of stylized text in literary tradition to inform and inspire. The artist's personal story and experiences are presented in an abbreviated way as to make the viewer become part of the narrative by allowing them to supply additional details for themselves. The effective use of quotes from famous figures such as Josephine Baker, Derek Walcott and Bell Hooks adds to the power of the works.

Using the visual tradition of the 19th century narratives, Ligon examines the unresolved issues that continue to face African Americans since the Civil War.

"Narratives" is a provocative installation that continues the discussion of inequality related to the legacy of slavery, race and class. Ligon is able to effectively communicate with the audience a sense of history as well as the state of contemporary society with both the look as well as the meaning of words he employs.

"Glenn Ligon: Narratives" is on display in the Schmucker Art Gallery until March 8. The exhibition is supported in part by the Civil War Institute, Africana Studies Program and the 150th Committee for the Commemoration of the American Civil War, Gettysburg College Gettysburg College.

The Schmucker Art Gallery is located on the main floor of Gettysburg College's Schmucker Hall, located at the intersection of North Washington and Water streets in Gettysburg. Admission is free, as is parking in visitor lots on campus. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.gettysburg.edu/gallery.

http://cumberlink.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/art-creating-art-with-line-and-text/article_d2ac80f0-9f1c-11e3-8d72-001a4bcf887a.html