Contemporary Artwork

"Tragic Wake" Exhibit
Links Slavery's History
To The Present

By Susan Mvulile
Feature Writer

At Spirit Square, a new exhibition titled "Tragic Wake" offers a unique perspective on the history of slavery. The work features the story of many enslaved African American artists, and it explores the evolving role of art in the struggle for freedom.

The exhibition is divided into two main sections: "The Story and Reclamation." Works in the "Story" section tell the history of slavery and its legacy, using a variety of artistic forms inspired by historical events and figures. These works include paintings, sculptures, and other art forms that reflect on the experiences of those who were enslaved.

The "Reclamation" section, on the other hand, focuses on the efforts of contemporary artists to reclaim and celebrate the cultural heritage of African Americans. It features works by artists such as Faith Ringgold, who uses quilts to tell stories of African American history.

In addition to the exhibition, Spirit Square will also host a series of workshops and lectures on the history of slavery and its impact on contemporary art. These events will be led by experts in the field and will provide opportunities for the public to engage with the issues presented in the exhibition.

Spirit Square’s Last Major Show
Uptown’s Arts Center To Be Disbanded Next Spring

It is a tribute to Spirit Square to present such a comprehensive and engaging historical, artistic, and educational event as "Tragic Wake" and the Wreck of the Annabelle May. This is exactly what this institution is uniquely set up to do. In the spring of 1997, Spirit Square will be demolished. Where will we find the multi-disciplinary artistic activities that this organization has brought to Charlotte for so many years? Let us hope that an event of this magnitude and significance will give us pause to reflect on what we are losing.

— Susan Mvulile

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