

**CONNELL GALLERY**

Great American Gallery

333 Buckhead Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30305-2305, Telephone: 404/261-1712

RELEASE DATE:

Immediate through October 12

MORE INFORMATION:

Martha Connell, 404/261-1712

VISIONS FROM PASAQUAN:

A Retrospective of St. EOM

ATLANTA --- Celebrated with a gala benefit opening on Friday, September 13, "Visions from Pasaquan," a major retrospective exhibition of exceptional pieces by St. EOM, will be on display at CONNELL GALLERY/Great American Gallery through October 12. The exhibit features numerous ceremonial costumes, headdresses and jewelry, paintings from throughout his life, several concrete sculptures including brightly painted disks and much embellished torsos, and many intimate sketchbook drawings and other works on paper.

The gala opening will benefit the Marion County Historic Society's efforts to restore and maintain St. EOM's masterpiece, the Land of Pasaquan, an extraordinary example of a visionary architectural environment. During the evening, Tom Patterson, currently the editor of the Winston-Salem-based quarterly ARTVU and author of St. EOM in the Land of Pasaquan (Jargon Society, 1987) and Howard Finster, Stranger from Another World (Abbeville Press, 1989), will present a performance based upon and illustrated with slides of St. EOM in Pasaquan. Precious Bryant, the renowned blues singer (and a friend of St. EOM) will also perform.

Located in Marion County, Georgia, St. EOM's Pasaquan is an intricately detailed and brilliantly colored assemblage of shrines, temples and pagodas, imposing cement figures, a ceremonial dance platform, elaborate gates and marvelously patterned walls created by St. EOM. Born Eddie Owens Martin in Buena Vista in 1908, St. EOM returned to his homeplace to build the Land of Pasaquan after 35 years of adventuring in New York City where he was a male hustler, tranvestite, model, dancer, artist and fortuneteller. A self-proclaimed healer and prophet, St. EOM who died in 1986 has been widely acclaimed as a unique visionary artist.

Donations during the gala opening and throughout the exhibition will be pooled with funds from sales of the artworks to assist the Marion County Historic Society with its restoration and maintenance of Pasaquan. Donations of \$25 will be expected of all attending the benefit; donors contributing \$50 or more will receive free full-color posters. After the exhibit closes on October 12, CONNELL GALLERY/Great American Gallery will serve as the exclusive representative of St. EOM's estate which is owned by the Marion County Historic Society; a share of the proceeds from sales of his work will continue to assist the preservation of Pasaquan.

CONNELL GALLERY/Great American Gallery is now located at 333 Buckhead Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Saturday, noon until 5 p.m., and by appointment. For more information, contact Pamela Blume Leonard or Martha Connell, 404/261-1712.