

Elaine George-Asaro's exhibition, "Eclectics" will showcase the diverse collection of portraiture, landscapes, African fiber pieces and non-traditional quilts crafted by this colorful Savannah artist



The exhibition will be on display at the City of Savannah's Gallery S.P.A.C.E. Jan. 9 through 23.

At the youthful age of 72, George-Asaro is still learning, exploring and creating. Her images have been created from watercolors, pastels and charcoal, oils and acrylic paints, fabric, wood, and stone. Her inspiration flows from all over the world, with references to Egypt, Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan and other far-flung locales revealed in the titles of her works.

"I feel that I have been an artist all of my life. I've just grown in my knowledge of it," George-Asaro explains. "I try to capture expressions from within. For example, my 'bling rooms' – ornately detailed paintings of elegant interiors -- express my desire for places that I'd love to lavish in."

The Southern experience for George-Asaro included learning African quilting techniques taught to her by a woman named Tahiri Pleasant. Her quilts are celebrations of riotous color, rich patterning and embellishment. She attributes finding her artistic niche to Pleasant and the inspiration she has imparted. "You will get to know my soul when you see my African-styled wall hangings and quilts, both non-traditional and hand-stitched."

Originally from New York City's Harlem neighborhood, George-Asaro retired to Savannah in 1998. She studied art at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She is a member of the Savannah Art Association and has exhibited her works locally at Savannah State University's African-American History Celebration, The Angel Café and Arts on the River.

An artist's reception will be held Jan. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Gallery S.P.A.C.E. is located at 9 W. Henry St. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (912) 651-6783 or visit www.savannahga.gov/arts.