

Rock Hill artist portrays pain, pleasure of real life

By **TONYA JAMESON**
Staff Writer

ROCK HILL — Sol calls himself a story-painter because each of his works tells a different tale.

The paintings are stories of joy, loneliness or perseverance — all aspects of the African-American experience and messages from William "Solomon" Dixon's life.

"This is us, this is how I feel," said 30-year-old Dixon, a Rock Hill native. "We're a culture and this is part of us."

He did a stint in the Navy, he has lived in Europe, California and Atlanta. Now he has returned to his roots and is sharing his work with his hometown.

"We're glad to have him back in Rock Hill," says Vicki Cook of the Rock Hill Arts Council.

Upon his homecoming 11 months ago, Dixon attended a few art shows and decided it was time to show his work. It is

ORDINARY PEOPLE

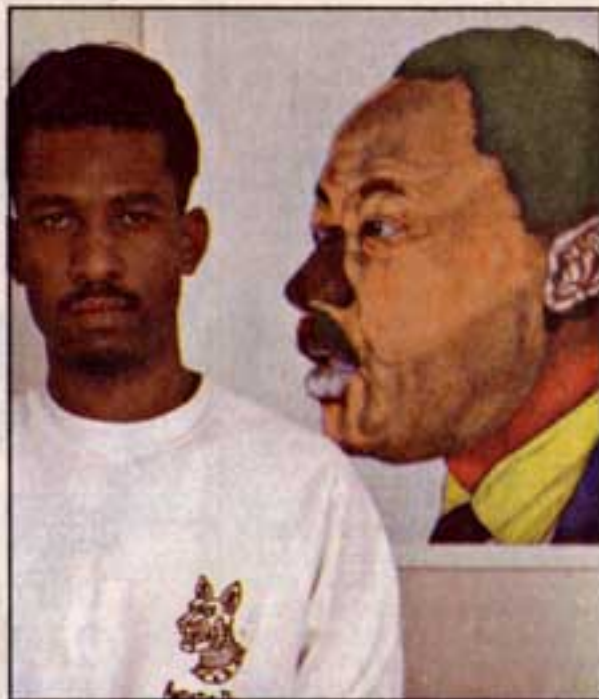
on display until September at Piedmont Medical Center, and twelve of his pieces were shown in the rotunda at City Hall earlier this summer.

"This has been one of the most thought-provoking shows," said Catherine Elders, medical center administrative secretary.

Elders, whose office is in the same hallway as the display, has seen many people stop and look at the art instead of just breezing through the hallway.

Who can resist a quick peek that turns into a long stare?

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NELL REDMOND/Staff

Artist and portrait: William "Solomon" Dixon painted the portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that hangs in his Rock Hill home.