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## NEWS

### WAMA hosts first abstract art exhibit

Saturday, June 23, 2007

From Staff Reports

OCEAN SPRINGS -- The Walter Anderson Museum of Art opened its first modern abstract art show Friday night.

"This work is quite contemporary and filled with color, said Gayle Petty-Johnson, Executive Director of the museum.

The show consists of work from Eugene James Martin, and will be on display through Sept. 30.

"He's an artist we've never seen," said Petty-Johnson. "He was very, very prolific."

Collages, water colors and a piece made of bamboo comprise the collection.

"You might think an artist who had to overcome all he did would create work filled with rage, but it's nothing like that," said Petty-Johnson.

The artists' mother died when he was young, said Petty-Johnson, and after being raised in foster homes, he worked as a janitor to pay his way through art school.

Martin lived in La-fayette, La., before dying of a stroke two years ago.