An Afternoon with the Harmon and Harriett Kelley Collection of African American Art
Wednesday, February 16, 2010
School of Architecture
Samuel Metters Auditorium, Room 163
11am-12pm

Harmon and Harriet Kelley began collecting African American art in 1987 and have since amassed a collection that represents over 150 years of African American creativity.

Dr. and Mrs. Kelley have played a significant role in making historic artwork produced by African American people available to a wide audience today. The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Foundation for the Arts was formed as a way of sharing their collection with the public through traveling exhibitions, loans, and access to rare fine art for reprinting in textbooks. Their foundation is a way of ensuring that the rich history of fine art made by African Americans will be shared with many more for generations to come.

Their passionate commitment to the arts and keen connoisseurship has been touted in such publications as Texas Monthly, Essence, Ebony, The Journal of the American Medical Association, and The New York Times. Exhibitions of their collection have been on view in several venues, including the Hayward Gallery, London, the Corcoran as well as the Smithsonian American Art Museum, in Washington, DC.

These Panthers (class of 1967 and 68) attribute their pride in their heritage to the experiences received as students of Prairie View A&M University. On February 16, 2011, The Fourth Floor Art Gallery of the John B. Coleman Library and Prairie View A&M University are proud to welcome home this family and lecture about this important art collection as an effort of advancing the university’s commitment to cultural enrichment. Selected works from their collection’s traveling exhibition can be viewed at http://www.a-r-t.com/kelley/#coll

This program is free and open to the public. All are welcomed to attend. For additional information about this or any Fourth Floor Art Gallery programs call 936-261-1523 or email the curator at Ldkelley@pvamu.edu

Images featured above (left) Whitfield Lovell; Chance, 2002 Iris print with found objects; (middle) Photo of Dr. Harmon and Mrs. Harriett Kelley; (right) Charles White; Fredrick Douglas; Date unknown; One color line etching