In celebration of Black History Month 2013, the Fourth Floor Art Gallery is delighted to celebrate the history of Prairie View’s community at large with our latest exhibition *The Vibrant Legacy of Mrs. Pearl Martin*. Mrs. Martin is a painter who has been a member of the Prairie View community since 1953. This will be the first solo exhibition of Mrs. Martin’s work since the Fourth Floor Art Gallery opened in 2004.

Pearl Martin is a native of Baltimore, MD and received both a Bachelor’s and Master of Arts Degree from Howard University. Upon exiting Howard, Pearl further pursued her art education at the University of Iowa. In 1953 she came to Prairie View, Texas to teach art. At Prairie View Pearl met and later married biology instructor Edward W. Martin. Dr. Martin is currently Dean Emeritus, College of Arts and Sciences at Prairie View A&M. Mrs. Martin joined the Waller County Independent School District and taught art classes to students of various grades for 37 years prior to retiring in 1990. Dr. and Mrs. Martin are the proud parents of three children and three grandchildren.

Like any rural university town, the population that surrounds this college is intimate. This campus community is comprised of residents from the subdivision Alta Vista (located less than a half of a mile away from the campus). Prairie View’s immediate community also includes citizens of Waller, and Hempstead, Texas. Neighborhood associations, bridge clubs and friendships have been formed around a mutual respect for higher education and the century-old mission of Prairie View A&M University. Many who live here have done so for decades in rooms adorned with colorful abstractions, cheery portraits, and landscapes by Mrs. Martin. This exhibition is a celebration of Mrs. Martin’s prolific hand in addition to the community of people who continue to live with her paintings.

*The Vibrant Legacy of Mrs. Pearl Martin* will be on view January 26- February 15, 2013 from 12-5 pm Monday through Friday. To learn more about this exhibition or the Fourth Floor Art Gallery, contact Mrs. Kelley-Oliver 936-261-1523, Ldkelley@pvamu.edu or visit http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/3665.asp

Artwork by Mrs. Martin featured above (left to right): *Island Lady in Orange*, oil on canvas, 2003; *Photo of Mrs. Pearl Martin*; *Smooth Sailing*, mixed media, 1990