Cosmic Convergence: Art and Science

E. Mayo, E. Zisholtz, and H. Hilton

I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium

Cosmic Convergence: Art and Science, opening at the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium in 2010, will feature the works of Mildred Thompson (1936-2003), a prominent African American artist who worked in the media of painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and photography.

Thompson's artwork shows the strong influences of her interest in physics, astronomy, and metaphysics as well as music and spiritualism.

“My work in the visual arts is, and has always been, a continuous search for understanding. It is an expression of purpose and reflects a personal interpretation of the Universe.”

Cosmic Convergence will explore the meeting of Art and Science through Mildred Thompson’s work and the scientific basis of that work. The paintings and sculptures of the exhibit will be combined with astronomical images showing both the reality and interpretation of the surrounding Universe.

The I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium is a major educational and teaching resource for South Carolina State University, K-12 schools, other universities and the community of Orangeburg and well beyond. The concept of creating a museum with a planetarium on the campus of SC State was ahead of its time. Today scholars are writing about the unity of creative disciplines. Through its integration of the arts, humanities and sciences, the Stanback, the only art museum with a planetarium at any of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and one of the few in the nation, stands in the forefront of modern thinking.

Support for this work was provided by the NSF PAARE program to South Carolina State University under award AST-0750814.