Magazine hails 2 profs as notable black artists

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Two Ohio State faculty members have been recognized by a national magazine as part of a new generation of black artists in the United States.

Adrienne W. Hoard, assistant professor of art and black studies; and Phoebe West, assistant professor of art, were featured in the August issue of Ebony magazine.

Hoard is in her fourth year at Ohio State; West his third.

The magazine said Hoard's "colorfully dramatic abstract paintings have made her one of the most promising talents of recent years." She began drawing during her childhood and gradually moved toward abstraction with a strong use of pure colors and form, the article said.

Her work today is inspired by dreams, natural phenomena, Pueblo Indian designs and her study in Mexico, Jamaica, North Africa and Europe. She often lets her canvases take unusual shapes to intensify her work.

Hoard studied at Northwestern University and received a bachelor's degree from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo. She has a master of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan. She has exhibited extensively for 10 years and has received numerous honors and recognitions, including inclusion in the "International Who's Who of Women" and the "International Who's Who in Community Service" this year.

Ebony called West "one of the best young painters in the country." His work consists of "lively, swirling, sometimes life-size figures which he counterpoints with symbols gathered from his research in African art and his own imagination. The paintings, often shimmering with motion and color, take on a magical quality that is both visually exciting and mentally challenging."

West received his professional certificate from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and his M.F.A. from Yale University's Graduate School. He is an award-winning artist and lecturer and has exhibited extensively in the last 10 years. His most recent one-man show was at the Afro-American Cultural Center of American International College in Springfield, Mass.

He recently founded an organization called Sankofa, composed of Ohio State faculty and students, which has painted two murals at sites in Columbus. Sankofa, he explained, is a word from Ghana and symbolizes looking back into the past to understand how to deal with the future. That theme, represented by a flying bird looking backward, is employed in the group's murals.

The Ebony recognition of these two artists was not their first association. During West's first year on campus he helped Hoard's class on "Visual Arts in the Black Community" with the preparation of a mural he said.