

A Community Ownership Project

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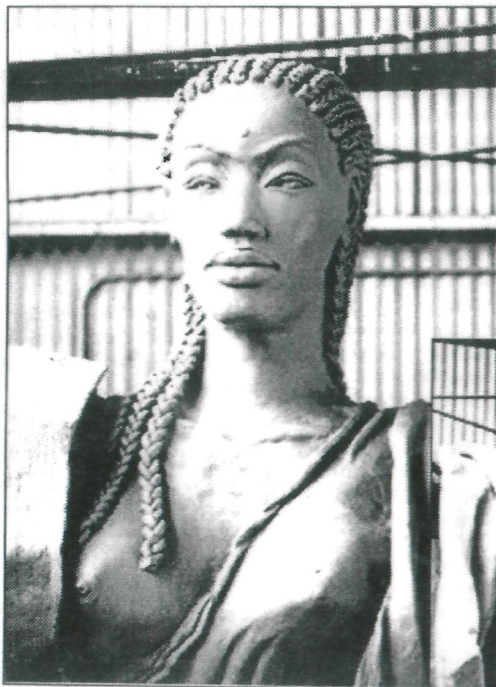
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# MOTHER OF HUMANITY

By Balozi Heru

May I begin my article with a word recognition game. Marilyn Monroe all who recognizes the name raise your hands. Now Dorothy Dandridge all who recognize her raise your hands. I'll bet more of you are cognizant of Marilyn than Dorothy. Even though Dorothy was nominated for an academy award in 1954 for her stunning betrayal of Carmen Jones in the movie of the same name. We dare not compare their singing, and dancing talents. Unfortunately African women seldom gain the respect, admiration, and worship that they deserve, with the exception of our diva's like Sarah Vaughn and Mahalia Jackson. In reality, Black women are grossly maligned by the media, ignored by historians, and denigrated by young, Negro rappers. But cheer up my Goddess, my beauty, our original Mother. MOTHER OF HUMANITY has been crafted by one of your extraordinary sons of truth, and beauty. His name is Nijel, which means black prince of God. The gentlemen has sculptured the "baddest" female mystique since Venus di Milo by Michealangelo of the medieval period. What inspired this awesome creation? Well in the aftermath of the Rodney King civil unrest. Our young artist's desire was to find a vehicle to bring the two communities together: Korean and African American. Enlightened through much travel, he recognizes that people have more things in common than differences. First, the Latasha Harlins memorial was conceived. This monument was to be two figures: an African and a Korean woman standing together on top of the world reaching 36 feet tall. Nijel contacted the Department of Cultural Affairs and won approval from the manager, Adolfo Nodal and his assistant, Barbara Goldstein. Even a site of Kenneth Hahn Park was chosen. But before the project could get started Nijel was persuaded that the

scope was too narrow and the rest of the community needed to be included. This led to a revamping of the memorial and concept to "Greater Los Angeles Goodwill Monument, in-

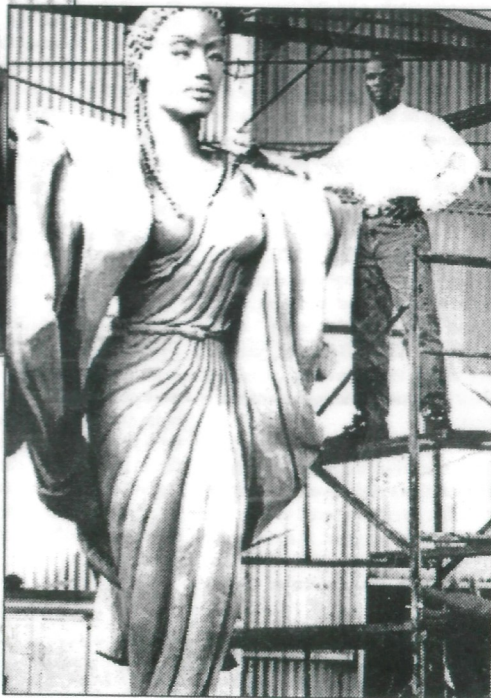


stead of two ladies, it was decided on one African woman illustrating that all people came from one. At this point, such notables as Mayor Tom Bradley and Councilwoman Yvonne B. Burke became supportive. Despite such valuable support, it was five years before Nijel could start work on the project. In the meantime, a bridge builder, Quvin Oji-Sanders, introduced Nijel to Teryl Watkins daughter of Ted Watkins and present head of Watts Labor Community Action Committee. Ms. Watkins immediately saw the uplifting, and inspirational value of the statue for the community, and offered to Nijel a site at her complex in Watts as well

as support for his work. Nijel was profoundly impressed with the good works of Ted Watkins and WLCAC, and the opportunity to avoid the stress and uncertainty of bureaucratic politics offered. Mother Of Humanity has found her first home in Watts, but Nijel plans to display in six other

sands of years. "The balancing of the land lies in MAAT truth, justice, righteousness, and reciprocity. Do not speak falsely for you are great, do not act lightly for you have weight, be not untrue for you are on the level with the balance. If it tilts, then you will lean too. Do not drift, rather steer. Do not rob, rather act against the robber, for one is not great, if he is great with greed. If you turn your face from violence who will punish wrongdoing?"

This work is scheduled for unveiling on Mothers Day 1996. Don't miss this glorious occasion! Brothers and Sisters you are going to love her! Hotep.



location around the world.

In our lady's hand is the feather of Maat. Maat was an ancient goddess of KMT (Egypt) she represented Truth, Justice, Righteousness, and Reciprocity. The following excerpt from Ron Karenga's *Husiu* will explain basis of this earliest of moral concept predating Judaism by thou-

The Watts Labor Community Action Committee is located at 11950 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA