Restoration Is Planned for Historical Murals

A set of important murals depicting events in African-American history will be restored and sent on tour for the first time through a collaboration of Talladega College in Alabama, which owns the murals, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. In 1938 Talladega, one of the country’s oldest historically black colleges, commissioned Hale Aspacio Woodruff, an African-American artist who had studied with Diego Rivera, to create the murals for the lobby of its new library. Comprising six canvases, the murals depict events like the uprising on the slave ship La Amistad, scenes from the Underground Railroad, above, and the founding of the college. At the High, the murals will be cleaned and restretched, Philip Verre, the museum’s chief operating officer, said in a phone interview. They will go on view in an exhibition opening in Atlanta on June 2, 2012, and will travel later to the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Woodruff, who taught art at New York University for more than 20 years, died in 1980.

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