

# Troubled Island Mural

In February 2002, the Office of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles commissioned Noni Olabisi to create a mural for the William Grant Still Art Center. Ms. Olabisi began the Center's mural in December 2002 and completed the project in August 2003. Charles "Boko" Freeman assisted.

The stunning mural that Noni Olabisi created effectively tells the story of the 1791 slave rebellion in Haiti which inspired William Grant Still's opera, *Troubled Island*. The viewer experiences, dramatically, the pain and suffering of the slaves and the rise to power of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, leader of the slave revolt.

In the center of the pictorial saga is William Grant Still, with his spiritual "eye" depicted in the middle of his forehead, conducting his powerful operatic score which expresses the need for a new era of interracial understanding, loving-kindness and God-consciousness on the earth.



Photos of the mural in-place at the William Grant Still Art Center  
2520 South West View Street, Los Angeles, CA 90016

## ON DISPLAY

The original image design for the William Grant Still Art Center *Troubled Island* mural, signed by the artist, Noni Olabisi.