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Artist shares three decades of experience with ASU students

Artistic entertainment and a brief history lesson is what students received Thursday when world renowned artist Dr. Ronald McDowell came to speak as part of ASU's First and Second Year Experience Program Lecture series.

Dressed in a black blazer adorned with pendants and a head full of curls, the accomplished artist encouraged students to begin learning and promoting Black art.

"Art is important because it tells the story of a people, place and time," McDowell said. "Artwork is a grim reminder of things that have taken place."

McDowell reminded the students that success takes time.

"It took me all my life to gain the skills I have today," he said.

The audience also received a brief history lesson when McDowell reminisced about his work, which included creating art pieces for musical legends such as the Jackson Five, and, more specifically, meeting Michael Jackson.

The high point of the lecture came when McDowell incorporated audience interaction by drawing spontaneous sketches with the assistance of several audience members.

Proving his notion that he can create art out of anything, McDowell turned a number 5 drawn by an audience member into a sketch of the cartoon character Fred Flintstone.

Before the lecture came to an end, McDowell told students the importance of having a passion for whatever one is to do in life.

"If you don't have a passion for what you do, then you will end up quitting," he said.

McDowell credits his passion for art for allowing him to be in the business for more than 30 years.



Photo caption: Artist Ronald McDowell talks about his art during a lecture on Thursday, Feb. 26, at ASU.