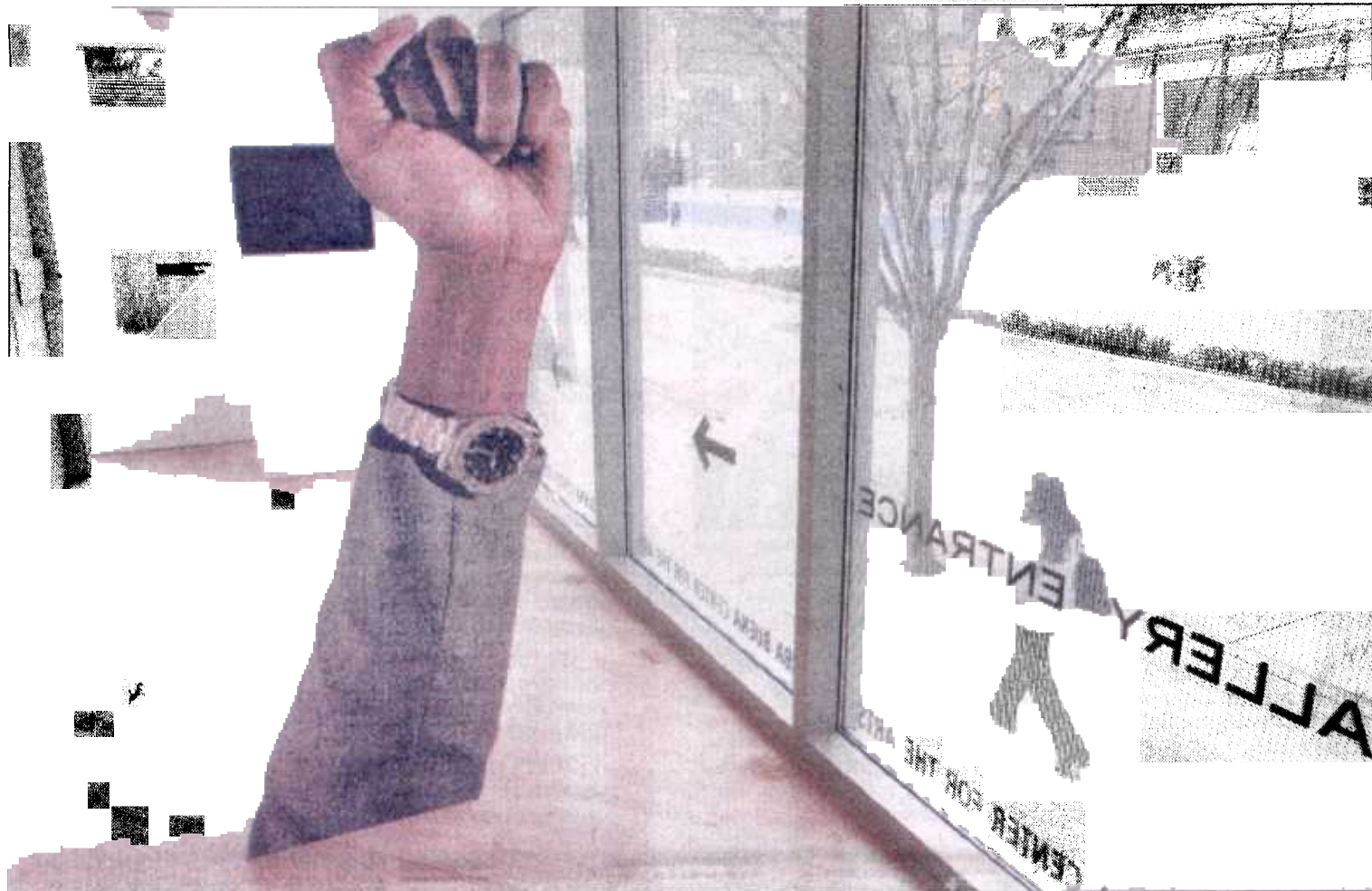


UNPACKING THE PANTHERS



SEAN CONNELLEY — Staff photos

A **BLACK POWER SALUTE** sculpture created by Hank Willis Thomas in 2005 is part of the “Black Panther Rank and File” exhibit opening Saturday at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

Black Power’s true power on display



eye on the arts

■ ‘Rank and File’ exhibit highlights good works, importance of Panthers

By Cecily Burt
STAFF WRITER

Forty years ago, Bobby Seale and Huey Newton sparked a social revolution that still resonates today.

While the revolutionary leaders of the Black Panther Party made headlines, the largely anonymous rank-and-file members and volunteers created the party’s most enduring legacies, such as free school breakfast programs, community health clinics and testing for sickle cell anemia.

“What happened was we kind of embarrassed the American government because there wasn’t any free breakfast program in the schools, and we had a lot of kids that were below the poverty level and they couldn’t afford to purchase a lunch,” said Jimmy Slater, a former



BLACK PANTHER POSTERS (above) by graphic artist Emory Douglas, the party’s minister of culture, and related art. “Proposal for the Five Dollar Bill” (left) is a diptych by Sam Durant featuring Huey Newton and Abraham Lincoln.

party member who now works for Oakland’s Public Works Department. “We felt it would help them concentrate on what they needed to, instead of finding their next meal.”

“Black Panther Rank and File,” an exhibit opening Saturday at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, ex-

Please see **EYE**, Metro 10

