

THE
HARMON & HARRIET
KELLEY

COLLECTION OF

AFRICAN
AMERICAN
ART

WORKS
ON PAPER

EXHIBITION GUIDE

The Exhibition Guides are provided for you to self-explore the exhibition, while giving you a deeper understanding of the artworks and artists represented.

You are welcome to use the Guide in the gallery and take it with you for later reading, or to pass it along and help us expand the exhibition's reach.

Parents and educators are encouraged to use the discover section of the guide to help our young visitors uncover more about the artworks, artists, and historic facts found through the exhibition gallery.

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Untitled, Sam Middleton

An abstract painting featuring a large, dark, textured sphere at the top center, surrounded by vibrant orange and red brushstrokes. Below the sphere, there are dark, jagged shapes and a prominent orange ring. The background is a mix of white, grey, and blue tones with various textures and brushwork. In the bottom right corner, there is a signature that reads "MIDDLETON ©1".

INTRODUCTION

MIDDLETON ©1



Dr. Harmon and Mrs. Harriet Kelley
Photo courtesy Harriet Kelley.

MEET THE COLLECTORS: DR. HARMON & MRS. HARRIET KELLEY

Native Texans, Dr. Harmon W. Kelley and Mrs. Harriet Kelley met at Prairie View A & M University. He was born and raised in the small town of Cameron, south of Temple. His serendipitous enrollment at Prairie View led him to meet Harriet, where her father, a chemist, developed and chaired the science department.

Dr. Kelley furthered his studies at the University of Texas Medical Branch and with the United States Army. In 1978, Dr. Kelley established his private practice in San Antonio, Texas, where he continued to work until his passing in January 2023. Harriet Kelley was honored with the 2019 Distinction in the Arts for Arts Patronage by the City of San Antonio's Arts Commission.

The Kelleys attended their first exhibition of African American art at the San Antonio Museum of Art. This experience changed them, as they encountered African American artists whose names they did not recognize.

Dr. Harmon and Mrs. Harriet Kelley vowed to educate themselves about this unknown aspect of their heritage. They engaged Thurlow Tibbs, a renowned D.C. dealer of African

American art, to guide them in their collecting journey. Tibbs tutored them on the artists, the art world, what books to read, and how to view art. Their eagerness to learn led the Kelleys to build a large library on African American art that complements the art collection.

Not content merely to collect, the Kelleys built a collection with a public educational purpose in mind. Dr. and Mrs. Kelley, from the start, understood the importance of educating others about the history of African American art and its place in American art history. The Kelleys' collection has been described as among the finest holdings of African American art in the country due to its breadth and depth.

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper represents a most comprehensive traveling exhibition featuring artwork created by some of America's most respected Black artists from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The exhibition's works on paper are exemplary depictions of the voices, hopes, histories, and values of the communities from which they emerged.

The original traveling exhibition was curated by the Kelleys, with historical perspective provided by Dr. Regenia A. Perry, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of African and African American Art, Virginia Commonwealth University.

The earliest work in the exhibition, Grafton Tyler Brown's *Willow Glen Rancho* from the late 1800s, illustrates the many roads Black artists took on their art journeys. Some of the artists exhibited traveled to Europe to further their studies and careers. The earliest examples are Henry Ossawa Tanner and his student William E. Scott. Other artists sought their historical roots in Africa and the Caribbean. Paul Keene spent time in Haiti; Lois Mailou Jones traveled extensively through Africa and Haiti; Alison Saar's multiethnic education provided her grounding in the African diaspora. Elizabeth Catlett adopted Mexican art ideals to advance social causes. Charles White, John Woodrow Wilson, and Walter Williams lived and studied at artist-led workshops and art schools in Mexico. Sam Middleton and Walter

Williams made their careers abroad in Sweden and Denmark, respectively, while maintaining a link to their American identity.

Some artworks in the exhibition reflect the regionalism of the 1930s, such as *Sunday Promenade* by Hale Aspacio Woodruff. Other prints address unique Black experiences such as *Planting* by Rex Gorleigh, while *Squatter* by Raymond Steth confronts us with the realities of living conditions in African American communities. A lesser number of artworks in the exhibition are abstract. Among them is *Wind and Flowers* by Alma Woodsey Thomas.



My Friend, Mary Reed Daniel

An abstract painting featuring a vibrant palette of colors including red, orange, yellow, blue, and green. The composition is layered and textured, with various brushstrokes and overlapping colors. A prominent vertical red stroke runs down the center. The background is a mix of light pink and white. In the lower right, there are blue and yellow shapes. At the bottom, there are red and orange shapes. A dark brown rectangular box is positioned in the lower center, containing the text 'THEMES EXPLORED' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

THEMES EXPLORED



Jitterbugs, William Henry Johnson

HARLEM RENAISSANCE

American economic shifts in the early 20th century and the start of WWI accelerated the movement of Black Americans from the rural South to urban centers in the North and Midwest. Their concentration in cities like New York, Chicago, Detroit, and Pittsburgh gave rise to community optimism and pride.

In New York, inspired by Alain Locke's New Negro movement and intellectuals like W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Americans were determined to build their cultural identity in a white-dominated Manhattan. The result was an artistic and intellectual movement called the Harlem Renaissance.

Along with musicians and performers, Black photographers and visual artists captured the people and places of Harlem, but had very limited access to galleries and museums. The New York Public Library was the first to open its doors to Black artists, holding its initial *Negro Arts Exhibit* in 1921. Several older artists represented in the Kelley collection and on view here exhibited paintings there, such as Henry Ossawa Tanner, William McKnight Farrow, William E. Scott, and Albert Smith. The new generation of Harlem Renaissance artists, Aaron Douglas, Hale Woodruff, and Jacob Lawrence, are also represented in these works on paper.



The Lamp Post, William Smith

AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS & THE WPA

The majority of the works in this exhibition were produced during the 1930s and 1940s, the era of the Great Depression. Through President Roosevelt's New Deal, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) established the Federal Art Project (FAP) to hire artists to create art and form Community Art Centers (CAC) to provide art classes for children and young artists. WPA-sponsored art centers — the NY Harlem Center, Chicago Southside CAC, Philadelphia Graphics Division, and Cleveland's Karamu House — played an important role in creating experimental communities of artists. Depending on their location and social construct, each CAC had different, sometimes unequal, resources. The exact number of African American artists employed by the WPA is not known; Ernest Crichlow, Jacob Lawrence, Charles White, and Hale Woodruff were among those who were.

This period gave birth to a school of African American regionalism and Black consciousness that would not re-surface again until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The works of the 1930s and 1940s were not politically motivated and generally did not depict protest themes. They portrayed African American subjects in rural and urban settings in a bold post-cubistic style. Scenes of factory workers, dock workers, farmers, bridge builders, and road menders were common.

Also present is an emphasis on family themes evident in a lithograph by Hilda Wilkerson Brown completed around 1940. Two powerful prints by Dox Thrash embody the art of the Depression era. An outstanding WPA graphic artist from an earlier generation, Albert A. Smith completed most of his works in Paris, and was probably the first African American artist to produce etchings.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACK PRINTMAKERS: INNOVATION & INFLUENCE

Black printers had worked at print shops since before emancipation, mainly anonymously. In 1867, Grafton Tyler Brown, whose work is in the exhibition, opened a commercial lithography shop in California at a time when there were few American trained lithographers.

The 1935 Graphic Division of the WPA / FAP established printmaking workshops. Using the equipment and materials provided, artists learned and practiced printing techniques, breaking economic barriers for artistic experimentation. Lithographs and wood blocks, previously printed in just one color, were done with multiple colors at the New York City project. Dox Thrash, an artist working in the WPA Philadelphia Fine Print Workshop, developed a type of mezzotint print seen in the exhibition.

When the WPA program ended, the experience gained by Black artists allowed them to find work as full-time artists and printers. Robert Blackburn, perhaps the most influential African American graphic artist of the mid-20th century, and whose tribute portrait by Ron Adams opened this exhibition, was a child of the Harlem CAC, having entered in his youth and then been employed there as an instructor. This training led him

to open his diverse and collaborative Blackburn Workshop in Chelsea. Blackburn became the first master printer at Universal Limited Art Editions where he produced some of the most seminal Abstract Expressionist and Pop Art prints of the 1960s. He supervised the editions of numerous artists including Romare Bearden, Norman Lewis, Benny Andrews, and Ernest Crichlow.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES' ART SCHOOLS: BEYOND EDUCATION

The growth of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) during the first half of the 20th century allowed Black students to pursue degrees in fine arts and art history. These academics and artists became career educators who established art programs and university galleries throughout the U.S., particularly in HBCUs in the South. Artists in the exhibition who established such programs include Hale Woodruff at Atlanta University, Aaron Douglas at Fisk University in Nashville, Elizabeth Catlett at Dillard University in New Orleans, and John Biggers at Texas Southern University in Houston.

HBCUs offered Black art instructors and their students opportunities to exhibit their work at a time when mainstream galleries and museums did not exhibit Black art. Many of these HBCUs acquired the works exhibited, making them important repositories of Black art collections and archives for the study of American art history.

At Texas Southern University, artist John Biggers established an art program that trained the next generation of regional Black

artists. Among them is Texas artist Charles Criner, whose screen-print *Mr. Alvin White (Man with Chicken)* is presented here. The influence Biggers and Texas Southern University had in the Houston area led to the establishment of Project Row Houses by Houston artists Bert Long, James Bettison, Jesse Lott, Rick Lowe, Floyd Newsum, Bert Samples, and George Smith. Project Row Houses, located where Biggers lived in the Third Ward, is an intersectional experimental space that addresses art, culture, housing, and historic preservation. *Morning is Here, No Dawn, and At Risk* by Biggers and *We Love, We Give, We Die, We Go Someplace, We Love* by his student Bert Long can be seen in the exhibition.

ART BORN OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The rise of political art was facilitated by Black participation in World War II, Jim Crow laws, mural and print work done for the WPA, and the increased number of professional Black artists as instructors and academics. Artist Jacob Lawrence achieved recognition with works like *Two Rebels* that addressed social issues. Charles Alston's *The Negro Wars* appeared on the cover of *Fortune*. Romare Bearden gathered artists to discuss the role of Black artists in the Civil Rights movement and in his works depicted injustices against Black Americans.

During the height of the Civil Rights era of the 1960s and 1970s, abstraction was controversial for artists embracing the Black Art Movement. This was the time when the iconic sculpture *Black Unity* with its raised fist, by Elizabeth Catlett, became a symbol of Black Power. In the exhibition, Catlett is showcased with her linocut, *Malcom Speaks for Us*. Like her, many Black artists continue to choose to work in a figurative manner, rejecting abstraction to convey a social message. Accordingly, figurative artists in the exhibition address civil rights topics with portraits of prominent leaders or of victims of injustice, as in the works *Wanted Poster* and *Frederick Douglas* by Charles White and *Reverend Love of Atlanta* by Benny Andrews. Other artists, such as Norman Lewis and Jacob Lawrence, combined abstraction with themes from Black history.



Blackburn, Ron Adams

ART TECHNIQUES IN THE EXHIBITION

While the exhibition encompasses a variety of techniques — watercolor, charcoal, gouache, pastel, pen and ink, and mixed media — most of the works in the exhibition, 53 of them, are prints. Their techniques range from the more popular lithographs to traditional etchings and dry points to pochoir.

INTACLIO PRINTING | A DESIGN INCISED OR ENGRAVED INTO A PLATE.

AQUATINT

A printmaking technique in which the image is scored with acid into a plate, and the sunken area holds the ink. Different from etching, it creates tonal effects instead of lines by adding an acid-resistant material to the printing plate. Tonality is controlled by length of time of the plate in the acid bath.

DRYPOINT

A printmaking technique in which an image is incised into a plate with a hard metal needle or diamond point.

ETCHING

A printmaking process in which lines or areas are incised using acid into a metal plate in order to hold the ink.

SOFT GROUND ETCHING

A technique in which hard etching ground is covered with grease to make it soft and sticky making it possible to imprint the ground itself, by pressing a textured object onto it.

BLOCK PRINT | LINOCUT AND WOODCUT

Block printing is a relief printing technique where a block of wood or linoleum is carved. Inking the design, the block is pressed as a stamp on the paper. The resulting print presents the mirror image of the carving.

IRIS-PRINT

An Iris-print is a digital printing technique with high color accuracy where the ink is sprayed onto paper, linen, or canvas.

LITHOGRAPH

A planographic (plane or flat) printing process in which a design is drawn onto a polished stone with an oil-based crayon or ink. After the stone is prepped, ink is rolled on it and pressed onto a damp paper.

POCHOIR

A highly refined stenciling technique of making fine limited editions of stencil prints with hand applied gouache paint.

SCREEN PRINT

A process where certain areas of a mesh are blocked according to the design. The ink is then pressed through a mesh screen onto the paper, forming the printed image.

COUACHE

A water-soluble paint in which a gum or an opaque white pigment is added. It is similar to watercolor but is opaque instead of being translucent.

INK

A water-based paint made with dyes. It can be applied with brush or pen.

PASTEL

Pastel, which can be used for drawing or painting, consists of ground pigments, a white filler, and a binding gum. Though pastel can be used as a loose powder, pencils or color sticks are more commonly used.

CHARCOAL

Made from charred twigs, it does not contain a binding agent and the stick crumbles easily. Charcoal is easily manipulated and requires a textured paper as well as a fixative when finished to prevent smudging.

WASH

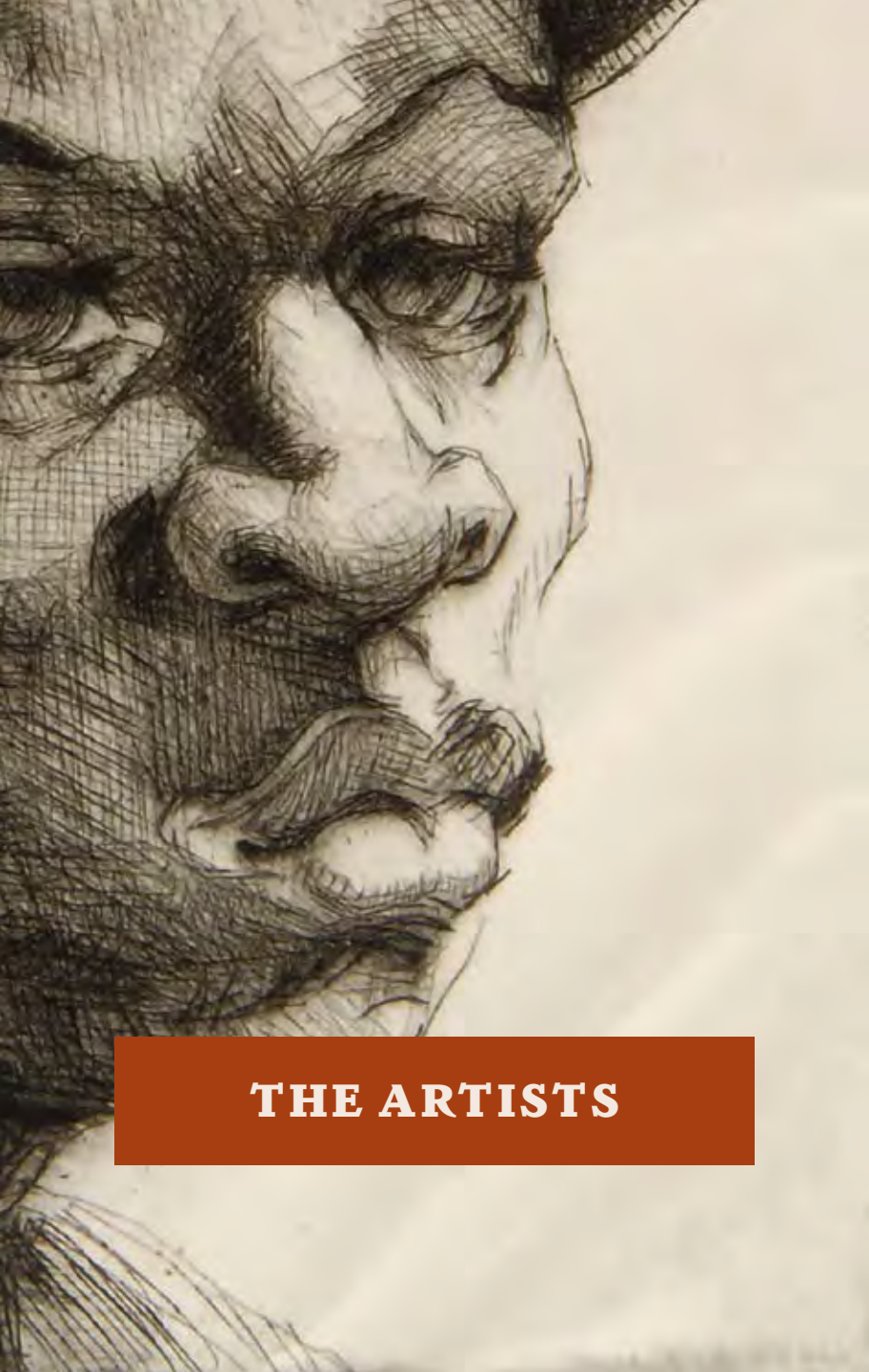
A fine layer of diluted ink or watercolor where brushstrokes are imperceptible.

WATERCOLOR

A luminous and transparent water-based paint, made of ground pigments combined with water and gum Arabic that is commonly applied by brush on white or pale cream color paper.



Abraham, Dox Thrash



THE ARTISTS



San Antonio Passage, Margo Humphrey

San Antonio Passage

ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

RON ADAMS | 1934–2020

Blackburn, 2002
Color lithograph

Endangered Species II, 1991
Aquatint and line etching

Ron Adams was born in Detroit. He studied at the Otis Art Institute, now Otis College of Art and Design, the University of California Los Angeles, and the Academia de San Carlos in Mexico. Adams worked at the graphic workshop, Gemini G.E.L. in Los Angeles where, as Master Printer, he produced works for Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. In 1974 he opened Hand Graphics in Santa Fe, New Mexico, printing work for Luis Jimenez, John Biggers, and others. He sold it in 1987 to concentrate on his own art. Known for his expressionistic style, Adams distinguished himself as a printer and graphic artist. His artwork, *Blackburn*, pays homage to Robert Blackburn, his legacy as a lithographer, and his influence on Adams.

BENNY ANDREWS | 1930–2006

Reverend Love of Atlanta, 1972
Pen and ink on paper

Born in Plainview, Georgia, Benny Andrews was the first in his family to graduate from high school. He enrolled in the U.S. Air Force and served during the Korean War. With the assistance of the GI bill, he attended the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Early on, he earned a living sketching performers.

Andrews captured ordinary people in his own expressionist style, through painting and collage. He taught at Queens College, City University of New York from 1968 to 1997 and served as the Director of the Visual Arts for the National Endowment for the Arts from 1982 to 1984. While in that position he developed the National Arts Program, one of the country's largest visual arts programs.

ROMARE BEARDEN | 1911–1988

Conjunction, 1979

Lithograph

Romare Bearden was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, and moved to New York City and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in his youth. He graduated with a degree in education from New York University in 1935. Bearden was exposed to a number of artists involved in the Harlem Renaissance. He studied under George Grosz at the Art Students League and supported himself as a cartoonist for African American newspapers and working for the WPA. Described as the “nation’s foremost collagist,” Bearden was also a painter, author, songwriter, social worker, and humanitarian. A retrospective of Bearden’s work became the first major exhibition of an African American artist at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. and later traveled around the country.

JOHN THOMAS BIGGERS | 1924–2001

Morning is Here, No Dawn, 1965

One color lithograph

At Risk..., 1996

One color lithograph

Originally from Gastonia, North Carolina, John Biggers entered Hampton University (formerly Hampton Institute) to study plumbing. It was at Hampton that a famed art educator, Viktor Lowenfeld, convinced him to study art. He followed Lowenfeld

to Pennsylvania State University where, in 1948, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees, and his doctorate in 1954. In 1949, he was hired by Texas State College for Negroes, now Texas Southern University, to establish the art department that he chaired for 34 years. Biggers was known for his murals, drawings, prints, and sculptures critical of racial and economic injustice. His legacy extends far beyond his body of work thanks to the young artists he trained and supported as an educator.

ROBERT HAMILTON BLACKBURN | 1920–2003

A Portrait, 1959

Line etching and aquatint

Robert Hamilton Blackburn was born in Summit, New Jersey, and grew up in Harlem in New York City. As a young man, Blackburn attended Charles Alston's workshops at the WPA Harlem CAC, where he later became a printer-instructor. Blackburn studied painting and lithography at the Art Students League from 1940 to 1943 on work scholarships. In 1947 he opened The Printmaking Workshop, a diverse collaborative studio. He was the first Master Printer at Universal Limited Art Editions from 1957 to 1963 where he produced some of the most seminal Abstract Expressionist and Pop Art prints of the 1960s. As the leading lithographer of his generation, his expertise with the medium helped define the overall aesthetic of modern American printmaking.

ELMER W. BROWN | 1909–1971

Numbers Pulling, 1935

Linoleum cut

Elmer W. Brown was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and lived in Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio, where he studied at The Cleveland Institute of Art (formerly Cleveland School of Art). He was active at the WPA CAC Karamu House, where he was an actor and stage designer, and was an educator at the Cooper

School of Art in Cleveland. He was a painter and illustrator known for his murals at various sites in Cleveland, several of which were so beloved, that they have been moved and restored over the decades. In 1953 he became the first African American illustrator at the American Greetings card company and worked there for 18 years.

HILDA WILKERSON BROWN | 1894–1981

The Family, ca. 1940
Lithograph

Hilda Wilkerson Brown was an artist and educator from Washington D.C. She earned her bachelor's degree in education from Howard University, and a master's degree from Columbia University. Brown also attended The Cooper Union and the National Academy of Design in New York, and later returned to Washington D.C., to teach fine arts at Miner Teacher's College. There she started an art history, design, and fine arts curriculum and eventually chaired the department. Brown was on the first board of directors of the Barnett-Aden Gallery, a private art gallery in Washington D.C., which was one of the first galleries to show work by Black artists. She lectured throughout DC on the importance of African art heritage and art education for elementary school teachers.

CRAFTON TYLER BROWN | 1841–1918

"Willow Glen Ranchero," Residence of W. Moore, Pescadero, San Mateo County, California, ca. 1800s
Lithograph with hand-coloring

Grafton Tyler Brown was born to free parents in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is one of the first African American artists to migrate to the West and is known for his paintings of California and the Pacific Northwest. Brown ran a successful business as a lithographer in San Francisco producing stock certificates, bills of sale, and illustrations documenting gold-rush towns and

ranches around San Francisco. He sold his business in 1879, wanting to devote more time to his painting. He left the San Francisco area and, to escape racism, moved to Canada where he focused his artwork on the beauty of the Canadian landscape.

CALVIN BURNETT | 1921–2007

Juggler, 1948

One color line etching

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Calvin Burnett was a painter, illustrator, printmaker, collage artist, and educator. He attended the Massachusetts College of Art, now Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and Boston University where he earned degrees in fine arts and arts education. He worked in shipyards throughout World War II. Afterward, Burnett began to teach art students at his alma mater, Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Burnett was also an illustrator of several books and wrote an instructional drawing book, *Objective Drawing Techniques*. His artistic style was inspired by abstract expressionism and African American social movements in the period after World War II.

MARGARET TAYLOR BURROUGHS | 1917–2010

Youth, 1953

Linoleum cut

Born Victoria Margaret Taylor in St. Rose, Louisiana, her family later moved to Chicago where she attended Chicago Teachers College, now Chicago State University, the Art Institute of Chicago, Esmeralda Art School in Mexico City, and Teachers College, Columbia University. She was co-founder of the South Side Community Arts Center. She served as the executive director of the DuSable Museum of African American History, Chicago. During her long career, Margaret Taylor Burroughs served as an educator, museum founder and director, writer, and political activist. A great promoter of works by African

Americans, and for African Americans, she created prints done in black and white to make them affordable to a broader public.

ELIZABETH CATLETT | 1915–2012

Malcolm Speaks For Us, 1969

Four color linoleum cut

Sharecropper, 1952

Two color linoleum cut

Born in Washington D.C., Elizabeth Catlett received a bachelor's degree from Howard University and studied with Grant Wood at The University of Iowa, where, in 1940, she became the first woman to receive a MFA in sculpture. She began studying lithography and modernist sculpture and in 1945, she received a grant from the Rosenwald Foundation to produce a body of work focusing on Black women. She moved to Mexico City where she worked at Taller de Gráfica Popular, an activist printmaking collective. She made Mexico her home and worked with influential Mexican artists who focused on social causes. Her work as a sculptor and printmaker focused on the struggles and strengths of women, African Americans, and the marginalized.

CLAUDE CLARK | 1915–2001

Rain, not dated (1950)

Offset lithograph

Claude Clark was born on a tenant farm in Rockingham, Georgia, and moved with his family to Philadelphia during the Great Migration. Clark studied at the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art, now University of the Arts, the Barnes Foundation, Sacramento State University, now California State University, Sacramento, and earned a Masters of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Clark worked in the WPA Fine Print Workshop from 1939 to 1942. He taught at Talladega College, Alabama, and Merritt College in Oakland, California, and published *Black Art Perspective: A Black*

Teacher's Guide of a Black Visual Art Curriculum. Clark's artworks explored issues of race and identity contrasting his experiences in the North, South, and his travels.

ROBERT COLESCOTT | 1925–2009

I Can't Dance, 1996
One color lithograph

Robert Colescott was born in Oakland, California. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in Europe during World War II. He received a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1949 and 1952 respectively. He went to Paris as a student of Fernand Leger. This experience and two years in Cairo, Egypt, helped him find his own identity. He maintained careers as both an artist and educator, teaching at colleges in Oregon, California, and Arizona throughout his career. He was the first Black American artist to have a solo exhibit at the Venice Biennale. His painting and other works are known to be provocative and to challenge racial and gender stereotypes.

ELDZIER CORTOR | 1916–2015

Dance Composition #35, not dated (early 1990s)
One color aquatint and line etching

Eldzier Cortor was born in Richmond, Virginia. At a young age, he moved to the south side of Chicago. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia University, and Pratt Graphic Art Center. Cortor was employed by the Federal Arts Project from 1938 to 1940. A Rosenwald Fellowship allowed him to go to St. Helena Island in the South Carolina low country where he was inspired by the island's culture and the Gullah women, which he used as subjects in many of his paintings. Unlike many of his contemporaries that ventured into abstraction, Cortor's figurative works focused mainly on Black women subjects. Cortor embraced Alain Locke's appeal to look for inspiration in the Black experience.

ERNEST T. CRICHLAW | 1914–2005

Anyone's Date, 1940
Gouache on paper

Lovers, 1938
Lithograph

Ernest Crichlow was born in New York City to parents from Barbados. He studied commercial art after high school and art at New York University and the Art Students League. Work with the WPA, as part of the Greensboro Arts Project, took him to North Carolina. He taught at the Harlem Community Arts Center and was a well-known illustrator of children's literature. While employed by the WPA, he made many prints, however, most did not survive. Crichlow believed that there were links between violence against African Americans and The Great Migration of African Americans to the North. The piece shown here, *Lovers*, shows a violent encounter of a young African American woman with a hooded Ku Klux Klan member.

CHARLES CRINER | BORN 1945

Mr. Alvin White (Man with Chicken), 1998
Color screen print

Charles Criner was born in Athens, Texas, a small East Texas town. He perfected his art skills at an early age using “How To” art books and was encouraged by his family to pursue art as a career. In 1964, he entered the Fine Arts Program at Texas Southern University, studying under John Biggers. Biggers encouraged Criner to use his family and his childhood experiences as inspiration for his work. Criner worked as a sign painter, billboard illustrator, and graphic artist while in school. After graduation he was employed as a staff artist for the *Houston Post*. He has been Artist in Residence at The Printing Museum in Houston for two decades.

MARY REED DANIEL | 1946–2006

My Friend, 1981
Gouache, graphite, and acrylic paint on paper

Mary Reed Daniel was born in East St. Louis, Illinois. She attended Southern Illinois University, where she studied art. In the late 1960s she opened a communal art gallery in Chicago with artists Bill Daniel, Howard Mallory, and José Williams. She was the recipient of the Milliren Corporation of New York Purchase Award in 1978. Her work is represented in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Her career is profiled in Dr. Leslie King-Hammond’s book, *Gumbo Ya Ya: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Women Artists*.

RICHARD W. DEMPSEY | 1909–1987

Untitled, 1940
Charcoal and color pastel on paper

Born in Ogden, Utah, Richard W. Dempsey studied at the California School of Arts and Crafts and the Art Students League

in New York. He moved to Washington D.C., to attend Howard University while working as a draftsman for a government agency. He is the recipient of a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship and received awards from The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the U.S. Army Historical Center. Inspired by Haitian and Jamaican colors, Dempsey was a prolific abstract painter working on several works at a time.

AARON DOUGLAS | 1899–1979

Portrait of a Lady, 1950

Watercolor on paper

Born in Kansas, Aaron Douglas earned a B.A. degree from the University of Nebraska. He moved to New York in 1925, where influenced by Winold Reiss, Alain Locke, and W. E. B. DuBois, Douglas incorporated African culture into his art, becoming the Harlem Renaissance's leading artist and "Father of African American Art." His work shows self-defining figures that blend modernism, Art Nouveau, and Deco with African techniques, rhythm, and forms. While not in this style, *Portrait of a Lady* exemplifies his character studies. He made illustrations for *The Crisis*, *Opportunity*, and *Vanity Fair* magazines. In 1936 Douglas completed a mural for the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas. He joined the faculty at Fisk University and became chair of the art department in 1944.

WILLIAM MCKNIGHT FARROW | 1885–1967

Ringling House, ca. 1928

Etching

William McKnight Farrow, born in Dayton, Ohio, attended the Art Institute of Chicago where he later became their first Black instructor. During his tenure from 1917 to 1945, he gave gallery lectures, was assistant curator, and exhibit designer. He taught at Carol Schurz Evening School and at Northwestern Settlement between 1923 to 1924. Farrow exhibited with the Harmon

Foundation in 1928. As a graphic designer, he started a Christmas card business in the 1920s and designed a series of posters for the Kimball piano company.

ALLAN RANDALL FREELON | 1895–1960

Road Menders, 1935
Aquatint

Building the Bridge, ca. 1930
Drypoint

Allan Randall Freelon was born in Philadelphia where he attended the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Tyler School at Temple University. He taught art in the public schools in Philadelphia and was appointed Art Supervisor of elementary and secondary education. A participant of the WPA in the 1930s, he made many prints, such as *Road Menders* and *Building the Bridge* found in this exhibition. He was a very active participant in the group of Philadelphia artists and writers associated with the New Negro Movement. Freelon was part of a group of influential African Americans who campaigned for civil rights.

REX CORLEIGH | 1902–1986

Planting, 1973
Six color block print

Rex Gorleigh was born in Pennsylvania. He was a painter and printmaker. He received his training at the Art Students League in New York City and in France with Andre Lhote. His work depicts rural Black Americans, especially migrant farm workers. He was employed by the WPA to establish Community Art Centers (CAC) throughout the country and worked in the South Side and Harlem CACs. In 1947 he moved to New Jersey to direct the Princeton Group Arts Center (PGAC), which promoted integration. During that time, he earned a Bachelor's in Arts degree from Rutgers University. When PGAC closed,

he opened the Studios-at-the-Canal, where for 23 years, he conducted workshops, painted, and printed silkscreens.

MARCO HUMPHREY | BORN 1942

San Antonio Passage, 1988

One color lithograph

Born in Oakland, California, Margo Humphrey received her BFA in Painting and Printmaking from the California College of Arts and Crafts and her MFA in Printmaking from Stanford University. She exhibited in the International Invitational World Printmaking Survey at the Museum of Modern Art in 1996. *San Antonio Passage* was completed in San Antonio, Texas, when Humphrey was an artist in residence at the University of Texas, San Antonio. For inspiration of *San Antonio Passage*, Humphrey used The Alamo façade and its historic narrative as a symbolic feature for exploration.

WILLIAM HENRY JOHNSON | 1901–1970

Jitterbugs III, 1941–42

Pochoir

South Carolina-born William H. Johnson studied at the National Academy of Design with Charles L. Hinton and at the Cape Cod School of Art under Charles H. Hawthorne, and with George Luks. He visited Paris in 1926 and traveled Europe for a time. He married Houlka Krake, a Danish artist, and moved to Denmark. With Europe on the brink of war, he returned to the U.S., settling in New York City in 1938. Johnson was employed by the WPA to teach art in Harlem at the Community Arts Center, inspiring a change that reflected Afro American and folk art influences on his work. The Smithsonian acquired most of his estate in 1967.

SARGENT JOHNSON | 1888–1967

Singing Saints, 1940

One color lithograph

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Johnson was orphaned at an early age, and lived with his aunt and uncle. His aunt, May Howard Jackson, was a famous Black sculptor. Although best known as a sculptor, Sargent Johnson was also a graphic artist, painter, enamellist, and ceramist. Johnson moved to San Francisco, California, where he studied drawing and painting at the A.W. Best School of Art and the California School of Fine Arts, today the San Francisco Art Institute. Johnson exhibited at The Harmon Foundation from 1926 to 1935, winning the bronze metal in 1929, and the Robert Oden prize for outstanding work in 1933. He was employed by the WPA during the Depression. Johnson received Rosenwald Fellowships in 1944 and 1949.

LAWRENCE ARTHUR JONES | 1910–1996

Section Hands, 1936

Etching

The oldest of 12 children, Lawrence Arthur Jones was born in Virginia. During his senior year in high school, noted Harlem poet James Weldon Johnson visited his school. Impressed with Jones's work, Johnson encouraged him to pursue art as a vocation. Unable to attend art school in Virginia due to Jim Crow laws, he instead enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago. He attended the Institute from 1934 to 1936 and interacted with fellow students Charles White, Frank Neal, and Eldzier Cortor. Jones spent much of his career as an art teacher in Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He established the fine arts program at Jackson State University. His work often depicts the history of African Americans in the United States.

LOIS MAILOU JONES | 1905–1998

A Shady Nook, Le Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, 1991
Color screen print

Lois Mailou Jones, from Boston, Massachusetts, was a painter, illustrator, and textile designer. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Upon graduation she began designing textiles. In 1928 she moved to Sedalia, North Carolina, where she founded the art department at Palmer Memorial Institute. She then taught art at Howard University in Washington D.C. for close to 50 years, training several generations of prominent Black artists. After she married Louis Vergniaud Pierre-Noel, a Haitian graphic designer, her travels to his home country greatly influenced her work. Her art also reflects her travels in the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa, where she was a U.S. cultural ambassador in 1970.

PAUL KEENE | 1920–2009

Seated Figure, 1947
One color woodcut

Paul Keene was born, raised, and educated in Philadelphia, studying art at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, today University of the Arts, Tyler School of Art, and Temple University. He also studied for two years at the Académie Julian in Paris. He returned to Pennsylvania in 1954 and taught at his alma matter, by then called Philadelphia College of Art. Later he taught painting and drawing at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pennsylvania, until retiring in 1985. Keene used his art to tell stories about the African American community in Philadelphia, creating new icons of black urban life. Keene described himself as an abstract realist painter and is known for his passionate use of color. He worked primarily with acrylic paints on paper but was a noted printmaker as well.

JACOB LAWRENCE | 1917–2000

Carpenters, 1977
Color lithograph

Two Rebels, 1963
One color lithograph

Jacob Lawrence, originally from Atlantic City, New Jersey, moved to Harlem in New York City when he was 12. There he enrolled in youth art classes at the Utopia Children’s Center. He also studied at the Harlem Community Art Center and at the American Artists School in New York. His works portray the lives and struggles of African Americans. Lawrence’s lithographs *Carpenters* and *Two Rebels* synthesize the shapes, colors, and people Lawrence saw in Harlem, in a style he called “dynamic cubism.” He was the first African American painter whose work was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He is arguably the best known African American painter of the 20th Century.

NORMAN LEWIS | 1909–1979

Shorty George, ca. 1930
Lithograph

New York-born Norman Lewis studied at Columbia University and taught art at the Harlem Community Art Center, George Washington Carver School, Harlem Youth in Action, and Art Students League. He was a founding member of the Harlem Artists Guild. His early works were as a Social Realist painter, concentrating on the living conditions of Black Americans during the Depression. In the 1940s, he abandoned his figurative social realism in favor of abstraction. Lewis was the only African American among the first generation of Abstract Expressionist artists, helping to define what the movement meant. In 1963, he was a founding member of Spiral, a group of Black artists committed to supporting the Civil Rights movement through their art.

LIONEL LOFTON | BORN 1954

Embracing, 1992

One color lithograph

Lionel Lofton is a Houston-born artist and art educator. He studied art with John Biggers at Texas Southern University, art education at Prairie View A&M University, and has a masters degree in Humanities/Humanistic Studies from the University of Houston, Clear Lake. He is best known for his abstract prints and mixed media works. His art often illustrates the concepts of inner strength, spirituality, beauty, family, and children—as in this family portrait, *Embracing*. He uses vibrant colors, forms, shapes, and textures to create works that reflect our environment, life experiences, and spiritual being.

BERT LONG | 1940–2013

We Love, We Give, We Die, We Go Somewhere, We Love, 1996

Color lithograph

Bert Long, Jr., born in Houston's Fifth Ward, was a largely self-taught painter, sculptor, and photographer. After serving in the Marines and going to culinary school, he enjoyed a career as an award-winning executive chef. He left the culinary field to become a fulltime professional artist in 1977. He established Houston's first art magazine, *Art Scene*, and co-founded Project Row Houses, an arts-and-housing initiative. He was awarded a 1987 National Endowment for the Arts Grant, a rare Rome Prize residency (1990–1991) and named Texas Artist of the Year in 1990.

WHITFIELD LOVELL | BORN 1959

Chance, 2002

Iris print with unique hand-colored playing cards

Whitfield Lovell was born and raised in the Bronx, New York City. He attended an arts high school and studied at the Maryland Institute, College of Art before finishing his Bachelor's

of Fine Arts at the Cooper Union in 1981. Deeply moved when he visited the South, where his mother was from, he became interested in his heritage, using this as inspiration in his work. He is internationally renowned for incorporating vintage, anonymous portraits of African Americans with found objects to create installations that evoke personal memories, ancestral connections, and the collective American past. His work is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

SAM MIDDLETON | 1927–2015

Untitled (Abstraction), 1961
Gouache on paper

Sam Middletown, born in New York City, grew up in Harlem and drew lasting inspiration from the neighborhood's rich jazz scene. He joined the Merchant Marines at 17 and used his time traveling to explore art galleries and museums overseas. In 1956, Middleton won a scholarship to the Institute Allende in San Miguel Allende, Mexico, and studied in Mexico for the next several years. He decided to settle in Amsterdam after establishing himself as an international mixed-media artist. Middleton's work remained deeply inspired by jazz music. In his abstract expressionist works, his use of color, line, and composition are based around sound and harmony; he uses improvisational brush strokes and splashes of color in his compositions.

IKE E. MORGAN | BORN 1958

Still Life, 1990
Pastel and acrylic on paper

Born in Rockdale, Texas, Ike Morgan is a self-taught artist. He began creating art while a patient at Austin State Hospital, where he lived from age 19 to 41 while being treated for

schizophrenia. His artistic style is raw. Driven by a need to create art almost continuously, he produces works using whatever materials are at hand — pastels, inks, oil and acrylic paints, paper, cardboard, canvas, and non-conventional mediums. He is best known for repeatedly painting iconic American figures like George Washington, whose image on the dollar bill inspired Morgan's first portraits of Washington.

WILLIAM PAJAUD | 1925–2015

I'll Be a Woman Tomorrow, 1970

One color lithograph

William Pajaud, born in New Orleans, was raised throughout the South. After earning a BFA at Xavier University in New Orleans, he moved to Los Angeles in 1948 and enrolled at Chouinard Art Institute, now California Institute of the Arts. His preferred medium was watercolor, but he was equally comfortable with oil pastels, pencil drawings, and printmaking. He painted scenes inspired by his childhood in the South as well as his life in Chicago and Los Angeles. In 1957, he became an art director at Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, one of the largest Black-owned insurance firms in the country. He persuaded Golden State to collect works by African American artists, becoming curator of this nationally recognized corporate collection.

ALISON SAAR | BORN 1956

Black Snake Blues, 1994

Color lithograph

California-born Alison Saar grew up surrounded by art. Her mother, Betye Saar, was an acclaimed artist and Richard Saar, her father, was a painter and art conservator. She received a dual degree in studio art and art history from Scripps College, Claremont, California, in 1978, and an MFA from Otis Art Institute, now the Otis College of Art and Design, in 1981. She

did artist residencies at the Studio Museum in Harlem and in Roswell, New Mexico. This blend of environments, along with her deep interest in history, identity, and cultures of the African Diaspora, influence her work as an artist. While she works primarily in sculpture using found objects, she is also a skilled printmaker, a process she learned from her mother.

CHARLES LOUIS SALLEE, JR. | 1911–2006

Boogie Woogie, 1941
One color line etching

Ohio-born Charles Sallee was drawn to art at a young age. He took classes in Cleveland at Karamu House, John Huntington Polytechnic Institute, and Cleveland School of Art, now the Cleveland Institute of Art. He earned a B.A. degree in art education from Western Reserve University, now Case Western Reserve University in 1939. He taught in Cleveland schools and worked on WPA projects as a print maker and mural painter. Most of his murals are lost. During World War II he worked as a cartographer and camouflage designer. He returned to Cleveland and had a successful career as an interior designer. After retirement, he resumed his artistic career, painting until his death in 2006.

WILLIAM E. SCOTT | 1884–1964

Old Woman, 1912
Soft-ground etching or one-color transfer lithograph

William Edouard Scott was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, and moved to Chicago in 1904 to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He traveled to Paris in 1909 to study under Henry O. Tanner and attend the Académie Julian and Académie Colarossi. His earlier work is influenced by Tanner and the French Realist School. Scott was a portraitist, illustrator, and muralist who documented the Black experience. His portraits of important Black Americans such as George Washington Carver

and Booker T. Washington are among his most famous, and his prolific work as a muralist can be seen throughout Chicago and Indianapolis.

CHARLES SEBREE | 1914–1985

Harlequin, 1954

Pen and ink and gouache on handmade paper

Born in Kentucky, Charles Sebree's family moved to Chicago when he was 10 years old. Sebree attended the Art Institute of Chicago and the WPA South Side Community Art Center in the 1930s where he was involved in art and theater. He became a playwright, director, and set designer for the American Negro Theatre and the Katherine Durham Dance Co. He moved to New York where he wrote the Broadway musical *Mrs. Patterson*, illustrated Countee Cullen's *The Lost Zoo*, and exhibited. Sebree moved to Washington D.C., in 1947 and was featured in exhibitions at Howard University, the now closed Evans Tibbs Collection Museum, and the Barnett-Aden Gallery. Sebree's modernist portraits often featured circus performers.

ALBERT A. SMITH | 1896–1940

Untitled, 1930

One color line etching with drypoint

Born in New York to Bermudian immigrant parents, Albert A. Smith attended the Ethical Culture Fieldston School and went on to study at the National Academy of Design in New York. He served during WWI. In 1920, to escape racism, Smith moved to Paris, became a professional jazz player, and furthered his art career studying etching at Académie des Beaux Arts in Liège. In 1922, he was awarded a gold medal at the Tanner Art League Exhibition in Washington D.C., and in 1929, won the Harmon Foundation bronze medal. He exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 1932 and the Baltimore Museum of Art's 1939 exhibition of Negro Art.

WILLIAM E. SMITH | 1913–1997

The Lamp Post, 1938

Linoleum cut

Pay Day, 1941 edition

Linoleum cut

Recreation, 1944

Pen and ink with graphite on paper

William E. Smith was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After the death of his mother in 1925, he joined his father in Cleveland, Ohio. Smith was living in extreme poverty when he met Rowena and Russell Jelliffe, founders of Karamu House, a place which brought together people of different races, religions, and economic backgrounds. Smith studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art, formerly the Cleveland School of Art, and the Chouinard Art Institute. During World War II, Smith served in the U.S. Army, winning a trip to Paris in a GI art contest. He chose printmaking for its low production cost, making prints blocks with battleship linoleum. For decades, he made an impressive body of work depicting the African American experience during the Depression.

RAYMOND STETH | 1916–1997

Squatter, 1935

One color lithograph

Raymond Steth was born in Norfolk, Virginia. In the early 1940s, he became a member of the Philadelphia graphics division of the WPA, a community art center designated to make prints. It was here that he worked with other great African American printmakers such as Dox Thrash, Claude Clark, and Samuel Brown. Steth's main interest was lithography, and he developed a graphic arts and printmaking department at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. His prints are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the National Art Gallery.

HENRY OSSAWA TANNER | 1859–1937

Shipwreck-Brittany, 1913

Etching

Gate of Tangier, 1910

Etching

Christ Walking on Water, 1910

Etching

Born in Pittsburg in 1859, Henry O. Tanner was the son of an African American Methodist minister. He did not follow his father into the ministry but chose religious subjects as inspiration for many of his works. Tanner attended the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where he was a student of Thomas Eakins. In 1891, he moved to France and remained there most of his life because of the racial tensions in the United States. In Paris, Tanner attended the Académie Julian with Benjamin Constant and won many awards for his paintings. He has the distinct honor of being the first African American artist to have an artwork hang in the White House.

ALMA WOODSEY THOMAS | 1891–1978

Wind and Flowers, 1973

Watercolor on paper

Alma Woodsey Thomas was born in Columbus, Georgia, to a middle class family that later migrated to Washington D.C. She was the first graduate of the art department at Howard University, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1921, and a M.A. degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University in 1924. For 35 years Thomas worked as a junior high school art teacher in Washington D.C. After retiring, her artist career took off. Influenced by the Washington Color School she embraced abstraction and created colorful mosaic abstract paintings. In 1972, Thomas became the first Black woman to have a solo exhibition at The Whitney Museum of American Art.

DOX THRASH | 1893–1965

Abraham, (first version), ca. 1937
Etching and drypoint

Study for Boats at Night, 1940
Pen and ink, ink wash, and graphite on paper

Dox Thrash was born in Georgia in 1893 and migrated to Chicago in 1911. There he studied part-time at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago and received personal instruction from William Scott. He is remembered best for his invention, along with Michael Gallagher and Hubert Mesibov, of the carborundum print making process while employed by the WPA in Philadelphia from 1937 to 1942. Attempting to reuse plates, he resurfaced lithographic stones with carborundum, a granular industrial product made of carbon and silicon crystals. This produced images that were very soft with different tonal variations. Thrash laid the printmaking techniques for printmakers who followed, such as Claude Clark, Raymond Steth, Charles White, Elizabeth Catlett, Robert Blackburn, and Samuel Brown.

JAMES LESESNE WELLS | 1902–1993

Negro Worker, 1928
One color lithograph

Born in Atlanta in 1902, James Wells attended the National Academy of Design and Columbia University, where he became interested in the printmaking process. Wells was a printmaker and painter for over 60 years, almost 40 of which were spent teaching in Howard University's art department. He was deeply affected by Alain Locke's appeal to use African art for inspiration in his work. Wells won the Harmon Foundation's gold medal in 1931. After leaving Howard University in 1968, he continued to paint and make prints, becoming known for his color lithographs.

CHARLES WHITE | 1918–1979

Night Club Hostess, 1938–40

Ink on paper

Wanted Poster Series, L-14, 1970

One color lithograph on yellow paper

Frederick Douglass, not dated (1951)

One color line etching

Charles White, painter, printer, and graphic artist was born in Chicago and educated at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. He received a John Hay Whitney Foundation Opportunity Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters grant, and a Rosenwald Fellowship. White produced murals while working for the WPA, including one at the Chicago Public Library. He also studied in Mexico at the Taller de Gráfica Popular. White taught at Dillard University, Howard University, and was professor and chairman of the art department at the Otis Art Institute, now the Otis College of Art and Design, in Los Angeles. He produced powerful images of African Americans.

WALTER WILLIAMS | 1920–1998

Thistle, 1966

Four color block print

Walter Williams, a painter and printmaker, was born in Brooklyn, New York. With the help of the GI Bill, he studied art at Brooklyn Museum Art School after World War II and worked with artists such as Ben Shahn. After graduation, he studied in Mexico with the help of a John Hay Whitney Foundation Opportunity Fellowship. In Mexico, Williams felt free to create his art and not worry about the racial conditions in the U.S. Williams moved to Copenhagen in 1959 and, in 1979, became a Danish citizen. In Copenhagen, his style changed to idealized landscapes with children, butterflies, and flowers.

JOHN WOODROW WILSON | 1922–2015

Native Son, 1945

One color lithograph

Street Car Scene, 1945

One color lithograph

John Woodrow Wilson was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and returned there later in life. He attended art classes at The Museum of Fine Arts Boston and graduated from Tufts University in 1947. He studied in Paris with Fernand Leger in 1949. Wilson received a John Hay Whitney Foundation Opportunity Fellowship and moved to Mexico, studying mural painting at La Esmeralda, also known as Escuela Nacional de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado, and the Escuela de las Artes del Libro in Mexico City. He later moved to Chicago, then to New York where he taught at Pratt Institute and other schools, and lastly to Boston where he was appointed to the faculty at Boston University in 1960.

HALE ASPACIO WOODRUFF | 1900–1980

Sunday Promenade, 1939

Woodblock print

Born in Cairo, Illinois, Hale Woodruff attended the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana, Harvard University, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, before traveling to Paris to study at Académie Scandinave and at Académie Moderne with the help of a Harmon Foundation Award. After leaving Paris, he accepted a teaching position at Atlanta University, now Clark Atlanta University. In 1938 he apprenticed mural painting with Diego Rivera. He painted murals at Talledega College, Atlanta University, and in Los Angeles for the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company before accepting a position at New York University. In New York, he abandoned his figurative art and moved into abstraction. Also a printmaker, Woodruff used African American experiences for inspiration.



Embracing, Lionel Lofton



DISCOVER



The Family, Hilda Wilkerson Brown

DISCUSS

Explore the gallery and think about the answers to these questions. Take time to look at the artwork up-close, noticing the small details to better understand the artists' work. Discuss in your group, and share your thoughts with each other.

1. Select one artwork that catches your attention. Closely look at the piece for 30 seconds. Then, discuss what you've noticed.
 - *Is there a main subject?*
 - *Is there a background that helps you know where this is taking place?*
 - *What are interesting details you notice?*
 - *Is this telling a story?*
 - *Why do you think the artist created this piece?*

2. The works in this exhibit showcase a variety of styles. Some are more realistic, and others are more abstracted. Some are in color, others are in black and white.

- *Which styles are you drawn to? Why?*

3. The majority of the works in this exhibition were produced during the 1930s and 1940s, the era of the Great Depression. They portrayed African American subjects in rural and urban settings, many showing scenes of factory workers, dock workers, farmers, bridge builders, road menders. Many also focused on family themes.

- *Can you find examples of these topics and themes?*

- *Why do you think these artists chose these subjects?*

4. Many of the artworks on display were made using special techniques. Become familiar with them in the “Art Techniques” section of this Guide on *page 25*. Then, explore the gallery and see if you can identify one artwork from every category below (tip: read the labels next to the artworks). Study the piece and look at the details to get an up-close look at that special technique.

- Lithograph _____

- Etching _____

- Aquatint _____

- Gouache _____

5. All of the artwork in this exhibit was collected by the Kelleys, so they could educate others about the history of African American art.
 - *If you were building your own collection, which five paintings would you select, and why?*

FURTHER READING

The Austin Public Library offers these curated book lists to accompany *The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper*. Check out these books and many more at any one of their 21 locations across Austin.

Scan the QR Codes to download curated book lists.



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