

# Griots Gallery and Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Presentation

Introduction to African American Art Collecting

May 14, 2022; 1:00 PM



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY

# Principals

M. Laurinus Pierre, MD, Founder and Director of the Center for Haitian Studies

Rosa Carrasquillo, Executive Assistant to the Director

Michael K. Butler, MD, Director of Griots Gallery and Academy

Jean Daudier, Gallery Collection Manager



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# Contact Information

Griots Gallery @The Center For Haitian Studies

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Miami, FL 33138

Griotsgallery.com

[Info@Griotsgallery.com](mailto:Info@Griotsgallery.com)

305 420-6545



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# GGA Major Initiatives

Life Cycle Collection Management

African American Art Collecting



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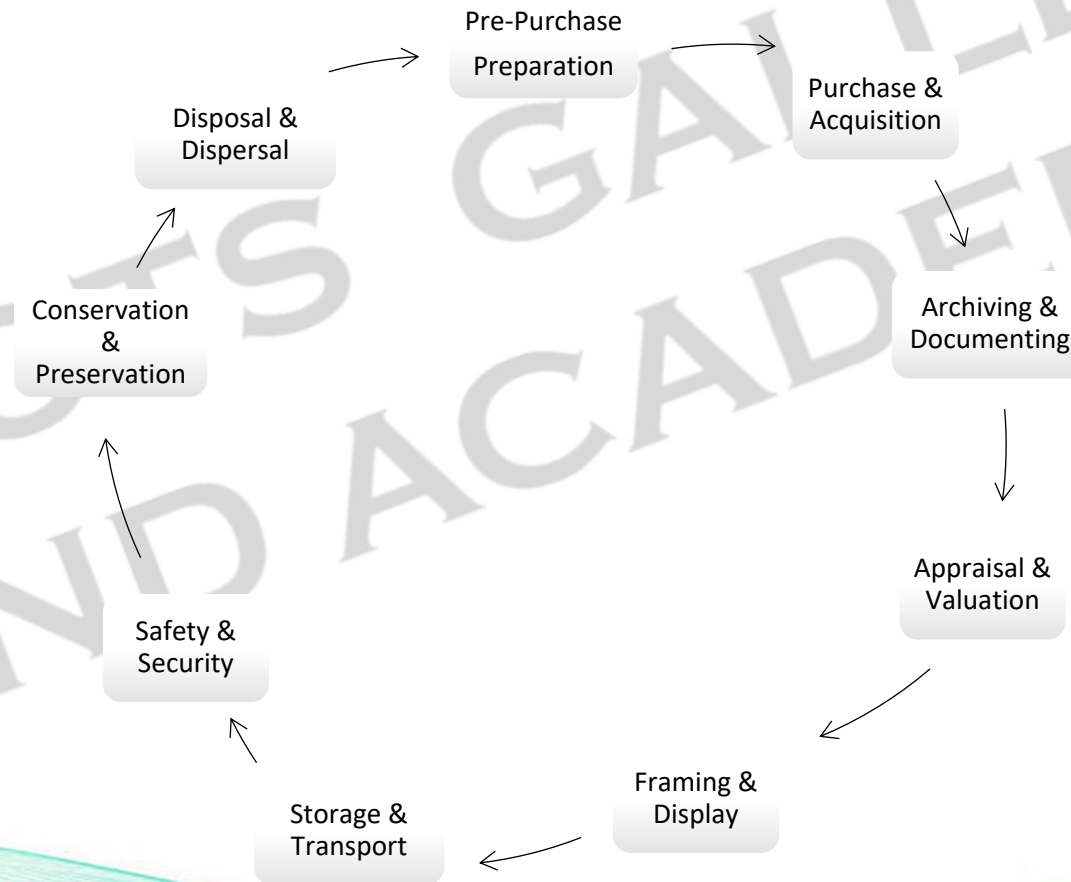


# Life Cycle Collection Management (LCCM)



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# Life Cycle Collection Management



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# Life Cycle Collection Management

## Purpose and Goals

- Provide the tools for collection management through the entirety of the collection process regardless of the type of art one is collecting
- Making smart acquisition decisions
- Keeping appropriate archiving and documentation records
- Maintaining the collection physically (conservation and preservation)
- Maintaining the collection's value
- Knowing what it means to be good stewards of the art



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# **African American Art Collecting Background and Introduction**



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# Definitions of African American Art

A disciplined exploration of the unique visual language of African American Artists.

## Definitions of Black Art

Alain Locke

W. E. B. DuBois

Cedric Dover

Langston Hughes

Romare Bearden

George Schuyler

Africobra and the Black Arts Movement

M. K. Butler



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# The “Whys” of Collecting

“There is Joy in repetition,” Prince

“You see a lot don’t you doctor. Why don’t you turn that high-powered perception at yourself and tell us what you see or are you afraid to.” Clarice Starling, ***Silence of the Lambs***

Discover or Impose Order on the world—Establish Meaning—Intellectual Connection

Resonance with the objects—Emotional Connection

Capturing or Preserving Beauty—Aesthetic Connection (Looks Good)

Protect Fragility—Conservation Connection (Stewardship)

Promote A Narrative—Storytelling

Instruct, Inspire, Inform and Interpret—Pedagogical Connection



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# The “Whys” of African American Art Collecting

Reconnecting with African Art

Rediscovering Ancestral Roots—Genealogical Connections

Accepting Black Art into the western canon

Seeing the world through Black eyes

Recognizing the breadth and depth of Black artistic production



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# Definitions of Black Art

## 1

### DuBois

The function of Negro artistic presentation has the role and responsibility for the Negro artist to offer a representation of the Negro and Black experience which might help in the quest for social uplift.

### Locke

The primary responsibility and function or the artistic expression (of the Negro artist) is his own individuality and by doing so he can communicate something of universal human appeal.



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# Definitions/Purposes of Black Art

## 2

### Langston Hughes

We younger Negro artists who create now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame. If white people are pleased, we are glad. If they are not, it doesn't matter. We know we are beautiful. And ugly too. The tom-tom cries and the tom-tom laughs. If colored people are pleased, we are glad. If they are not, their displeasure doesn't matter either. We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves.

***The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain***

### George Schuyler

Black art as such is non-existent. Just lamp-black Anglo-Saxons.

***The Negro Art Hokum***



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# Definitions of Black Art

## 3

### **Black Arts Movement/Africobra**

**M. K. Butler**

A conscious black aesthetic to promote freedom and equality and pursue social change. It focuses on seeing Black folks differently with full humanity.

Visual art created by Black Artists



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# Goals of Art Collecting

## Acquiring Pieces That Personally Resonate

If you are a collector, there should be a connection between you and the piece. If there is no connection, keep it moving. No further action is needed.

- Right Piece
- Right Price
- Right Place
- Right Time



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# WHAT MAKES IT A COLLECTION?

- There should be an informing idea that makes a connection between the objects in the set.
- The creation of a Gestalt—"a whole greater than the sum of its parts"
- This "connection" is limited only by the imagination of the collector.



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# Collection Organizing Principles

Themes

Artists

Subjects

Styles

Genres

Colors

Media

Period

Group

Geography

Techniques



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# Griots Gallery Holdings

- # Of Works: >500
- # Of Creators: >250
- Media: >10
- Themes and Subjects: 20
- Styles: >17



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# Artist Collection Holdings (> 9 items)

## A-J

Buchi Upjohn Aghaji

Benny Andrews

Ralph Arnold

Romare Bearden

Margaret Burroughs

Fanta Celah

Michael Ray Charles

Najee Dorsey

David Driskell

Elton Fax

Frank Frazier

Sam Gilliam

Phillip Hampton

Randell Henry

Leon Hicks

Alvin Hollingsworth

Al Johnson



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# Artist Collection Holdings (> 9 items)

## K-Z

Beni Kosh (Charles E. Harris)

Jacob Lawrence

Arturo Lindsay

William Majors

Ronald Meaux

Ralph Middleton

Sam Middleton

Leon Gordon Miller

Norma Morgan

John Nichols

Don O'Bannon

Charly Palmer

Robert Reid

ScareCro

Merton Simpson

Harold Smith

Charles White



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# Noted Artists A-G

Charles Alston

Emma Amos

John Biggers

Willie Birch

Betty Blayton

Lilian Burwell

LeRoy Clarke

Kevin Cole

Allan Crite

Richard Dempsey

Joseph Delaney

Murry Depillars

El Anatsui

Mae Engron

Michael Ellison

Rodney Ewing

Franketienne

Violet Fields

Jonathan Green

Joseph Grey



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# Noted Artists H-O

Verna Hart

Varnette Honeywood

Richard Hunt

Clementine Hunter

Billy Morrow Jackson

Martha Jackson Jarvis

Wadsworth Jarrell

Daniel Larue Johnson

Calvin B. Jones

Wosene Kosrof

Paul Keene

Norman Lewis

Henri Linton

Joseph Lofton

Lionel Lofton

Richard Mayhew

Dindga McCannon

Evangeline Montgomery

Keith Morrison

Woodrow Nash

Mary L. O'Neal



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# Noted Artists P-Z

William Pajaud

James Phillips

Steve Prince

John T. Riddle

Charlotte Riley-Webb

Gregory Ridley

Faith Ringgold

John Rozelle

Betye Saar

Walter Sanford

John T. Scott

Deborah Shedrick

Gilda Snowden

Nelson Stevens

Lou Stovall

Freddie Styles

William Tolliver

Andrew Turner

Larry Walker

Charles Washington

Keith Morris Washington

Benjamin Wigfall

Willie White

Thomas Williams

Frank Wimberley

Hale Woodruff

Shirley Woodson



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# African American Art General Reference Books

***A History of African-American Artists: From 1792 to the Present***

Romare Bearden and Harry Henderson

***African American Art and Artists (Revised and Expanded Edition)***

Samella Lewis

***African-American Art***

Sharon F. Patton

***Black Art: A Cultural History (Second Edition)***

Richard Powell

***Creating Black Americans: African-American History and Its Meanings, 1619 to the Present***

Nell Irvin Painter

***Collecting African American Art—Works on Paper and Canvas***

Halima Taha

***African American Art: A Visual and Cultural History***

Lisa Farrington

***St. James Guide to Black Artists***

Thomas Riggs, editor & Schomburg Center for Research Center in Black Culture



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# African American Art Biographies

Ralph Arnold

Edward M. Bannister

Romare Bearden

Grafton Tyler Brown

Elizabeth Catlett

Robert Colescott

Aaron Douglas

Robert S. Duncanson

Meta Vaux Fuller

Phillip Hampton

Clementine Hunter

Jacob Lawrence

Edmonia Lewis

Samella Lewis

Augusta Savage

Henry O. Tanner

Alma Thomas

Charles White



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# African American Artist Biographies

Aaron Douglas

*African American Modernist*

Henry O. Tanner

*Modern Spirit*

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller

*Remaking Race and History: The Sculpture of Meta Warrick Fuller*

Alma Thomas

*A Retrospective of the Paintings*

Samella Lewis

*Samella Lewis and the African American Experience*

Clementine Hunter

*Clementine Hunter American Folk Artist*

Romare Bearden

*The Art of Romare Bearden*

*An American Odyssey: The Life and Work of Romare Bearden*

Jacob Lawrence

*The Complete Jacob Lawrence: Over The Line: The Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence*

*Jacob Lawrence: Paintings, Drawings, and Murals 1935-1999– A Catalogue Raisonne*



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# African American Artist Biographies

Mary Edmonia Lewis

***Children of Fire***

Augusta Savage

***Renaissance Woman***

Edward Mitchell Bannister

***Edward Mitchell Bannister, 1828-1901***

Robert Scott Duncanson

***The Emergence of the African American Artist: Robert S. Duncanson, 1821-1872***

Elizabeth Catlett

***Elizabeth Catlett: An American Artist in Mexico***

Charles White

***Charles White: A Retrospective***

Grafton Tyler Brown

***San Francisco Lithographer: African American Artist—Grafton Tyler Brown***

Lilian Burwell

***Lilian Burwell From Painting to Painting to Sculpture: The Journey of Lilian Thomas Burwell***

Ralph Arnold

***The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold***

Philip Hampton

***A Celebration of Vision 1922-2016***



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# Books About African American Art Collections—

1

***The Walter O. Evans Collection of African American Art***

Andrea Barnwell and Tritobia Hayes Benjamin

***This Postman Collects: The Rapture of Kerry and C. Betty Davis***

Clark University Art Galleries

***Memories and Inspiration –The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art***

International Arts and Artists

***Something of Our Own—The Grant Hill Collection of African American Art***

Alvia J. Wardlaw, editor

***Narratives of African American Art and Identity—The David C. Driskell Collection***

Juanita M. Holland and Terry Gips

***Free Within Ourselves: African American Artists in the Collection of the National Museum of Art***

Regenia A. Perry



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# Books About African American Art Collections— 2

***The Other Side of Color: African American Art In The Collection of Camille O. and William H. Cosby, Jr.***

David C. Driskell and Camille O. Cosby

***Instill and Inspire: The John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African American Art***

Grace Stanislaus

***The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Collection***

Bernard Kinsey and Shirley Kinsey

***Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art***

San Antonio Museum of Art and Douglas K. Hyland

***Fired Up Ready To Go***

Peggy Cooper Cafritz



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# Sources of Knowledge

- Seminal Texts/Books
- Exhibition Catalogues
- Catalogues Raisonnees
- Gallery Publications
- Bibliographies
- Blogs
- E-zines and Magazines
- Databases—Mutual Art, Invaluable, Blouin Art Sales Index



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# Unique Features and Challenges of the Black Diaspora Art Market

Less Well Known

Not Clearly Identified

Markets and Museum Don't Recognize Significance

Black Buyers have relatively less disposable income

More Self-taught artists

Fewer Exhibition Venues

Fewer Opportunities for Studios and Workspaces

Limited Supplies

Smaller Target Audience



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# **African American Art Subjects, Styles and Themes**



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# African American Art Subjects and Themes

## Slavery—Related

- Middle Passage
- Slave Revolts
- Underground Railroad
- Freedom (Emancipation)

Civil Rights

Voting

Biblical and Religious Images

Cotton and Rural Life

Masks

Heroes and Villains

Violence

Mother and Child

Family

Africa—Real and Imagined

Landscapes

Music and Celebration

Cities and Urban Settings



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# Art Styles

Abstract

Afrofuturism

Biblical and Religious

Color Field

Expressionist

Figurative

Genre

Geometric

Impressionist

Minimalist

Nature (Landscape)

Pop

Rites, Rituals and Religion

Still Life

Surrealist

Typographical

Urban



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***Advancing  
Impulses***

Art Style—  
Abstract

Mildred Thompson  
Silkscreen

39 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 27 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

1999



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**Untitled #1--  
Afrofuturism  
Art Style:  
Afrofuturism**

Mae Engron

Oil On Canvas

31 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 37 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.

ND



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***Ketchin Fish***  
**Art Style--Genre**

William Tolliver

Silkscreen

16 x 21½ in.

1990-1999



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# KILLER CLOTH

Art Style—Figurative

**PAUL GOODNIGHT**

*Killer Cloth*

Mixed Media Drawing

27 x 32 in.



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# Untitled

Art Style—Geometric  
Abstraction

**DANIEL LARUE  
JOHNSON**

Oil on Canvas

60 x 60 in.

1971



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**Untitled #1—(Florida  
Night Indian River  
Landscape)**

Art Style—Landscape

**CHARLES "CHICO"  
WHEELER**

Oil on Board

20 x 28 in.



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## The Family

Art Style—Minimalist

Subject—The Family

**WILLIAM (BILL)  
WALKER**

Pen and Ink and  
Marker on Crescent  
Board

20 x 15 in.

1978



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**Martin Luther King**

Art Style--

Portraiture

**SAMUEL BENSON**

Oil on Board

46 x 40 in.



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**The Conversion of the  
Ethiopian Eunuch  
Art Style—Religious  
PAUL GOODNIGHT**

Silkscreen

40 x 30 in.

1994



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# Funeral

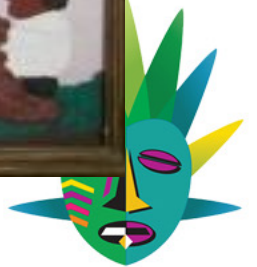
Art Style—Rites and  
Rituals

**Clementine Hunter**

Original

19 x 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in.

ND



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**Still Life With Fruit  
and Objects**  
Art Style—Still Life

**EVANGELINE J.  
MONTGOMERY**

Oil On Board  
23<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 30 in.



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***Untitled #1 (Surreal Image  
Centered on Clock Face or  
Belt Ala Dali)***

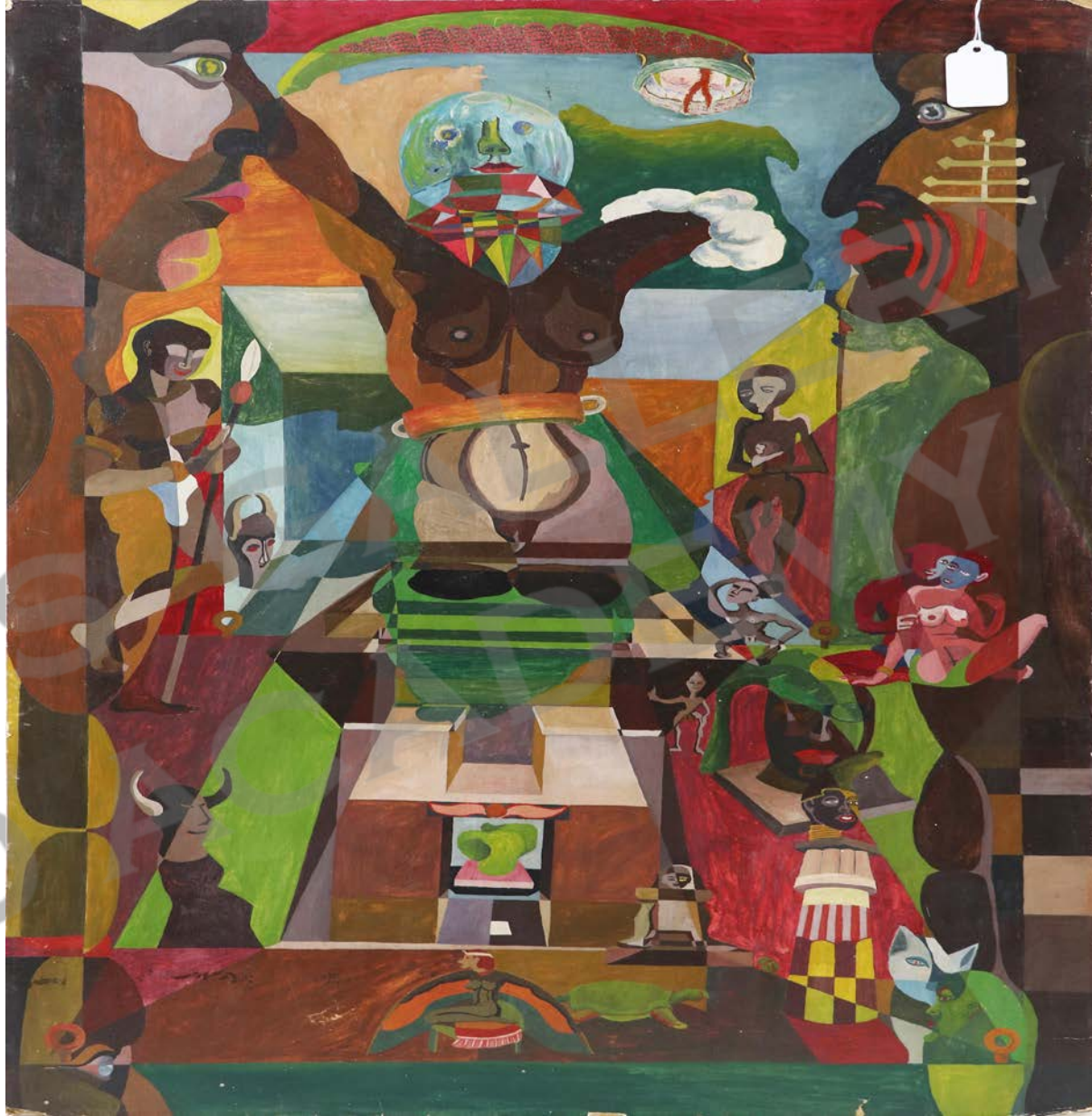
**Art Style—Surrealism**

**BENI E. KOSH (Charles  
Elmer Harris)**

Acrylic on Illustration  
Board

30 x 19½ in.

ND



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# Invisible Man

Art Style—Typography

Rodney Ewing  
MM—Collage  
56 X 43"  
2006



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# I Remember Birmingham

## Art Style—Typography

John T. Scott

Silkscreen

29 ½ X 21"

1997



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# I Remember Birmingham

## Art Style—Typography

John T. Scott

Silkscreen

29 ½ X 21"

1997



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***London School (Girl with AK-47)***

**JOE COBB (United States)**

Art Style—Urban

MM oil/acrylic on Canvas

25 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 25 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

2016



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# Image Construction Media and Ground



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# Types of Artwork

- Ceramics
- Drawings
- Glass
- Mixed Media
- Paintings
- Photographs
- Posters
- Printed Materials—Books Brochures, Catalogs, Correspondence, Magazines, etc.
- Prints
- Textiles
- Sculpture



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# Medium—Image Construction

Oils

Acrylics

Gouaches

Watercolors

Tempera

Pastels

Pencil

Pens

Chalk

Shoe Polish

Graphite

Charcoal

Fiber

Prints

- Etching
- Engraving
  - Linocuts
  - Woodcuts
- Silkscreen
- Lithography



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# Ground—Substrate Where The Image Resides

- Paper
- Canvas
- Board
- Masonite
- Fabric
- Glass
- Metal (Usu. Copper or Zinc)
- Miscellaneous



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# Prints

- Definition
- Techniques
  - Intaglio
    - Engraving
    - Etching
    - Mezzotint
    - Aquatint
  - Lithographic
  - Relief
    - Woodcut
    - Linocut
  - Screen Printing
  - Monotype
  - Collagraph



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# Sculpture—Three Dimensional Objects

- Construction Technique
  - Additive
  - Reductive
  - Assemblage
  - Cast
- Materials
  - Stone—Marble, Granite, Shona Stone
  - Wood
  - Plaster
  - Resin



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Strange Fruit  
Reductive—Carved  
Wood

John Fayson  
Wood Stump  
51 x 18 x 16"  
Circa 1960



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# Untitled Additive

Charles Searles

Mixed Media Paper  
Collage/Sculpture Maquette

16 x 17 in.

1994



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# The Storm is Coming

## No. 1

John T. Scott

Sculpture

Assemblage

19 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 10 in.

1997



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***Untitled—The Hunt,  
The Kill***  
**Shona Stone**

Unknown Artist

Opalstone or Springstone

40 x 20 x 18 in. — 325 lbs



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***Untitled (Genesis Series)***

Carved Wood

Earl Wilke

19 x 29 x 12 in.



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***In One Ear—Out the  
Other***

Sculpture—Patinated  
Bronze

**Ed Dwight**

Patinated bronze with painted  
plaster to conform to stone base  
with natural schist plinth

19 x 19 in.

1983



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***Group Portrait***

Polyester Resin

**Helen Finch**

Polyester Resin

20 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

1987



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***Barack Obama—Visions  
of Our 44<sup>th</sup> President***

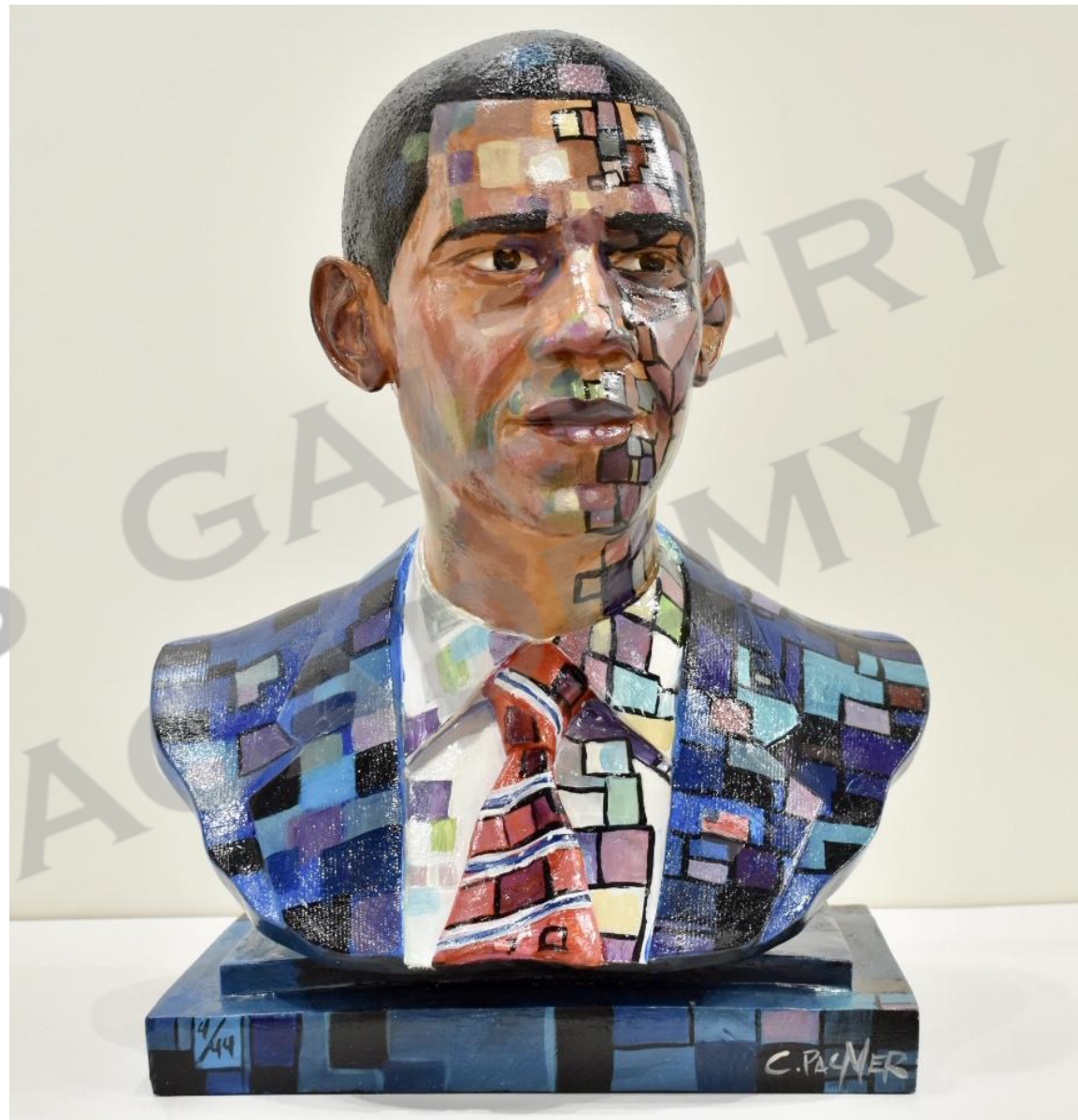
Resin

**Charly Palmer**

Gessoed Acrylic Resin

21½ x 17 x 12½ in

2012



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**Untitled—African Male Bust**  
Cast Earthenware

**Woodrow Nash**

Earthenware with white glaze  
15 inches tall (w/o stand)

ND



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# Themes, Subjects and Styles



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# Themes, Subjects and Styles

- Abstract
- Arts—Especially Music
- Civil Rights
- Family
- Genre
- Historical Narratives
- Landscapes
- Myth and Fantasy
- Portraits
- Religious Images and Rituals
- Still Life



**GRIOTS' GALLERY  
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# GRIOTS' GALLERY AND ACADEMY

## Abstract



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
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# Abstract

## The Healer

**Martha Jackson-Jarvis**

Mixed Media

49 X 62 X 9

MM—Clay Glass, Copper Paper  
and Pigmented Cement



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GRIOTS' GALLERY  
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# Civil Rights



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# Civil Rights

## The Tattooed Man

Billy Morrow Jackson

Print

29 X 22

1965



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**Little Rock Nine**  
**FRANK FRAZIER**

Shoe Polish on Paper  
26 x 40 in.  
2016



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY

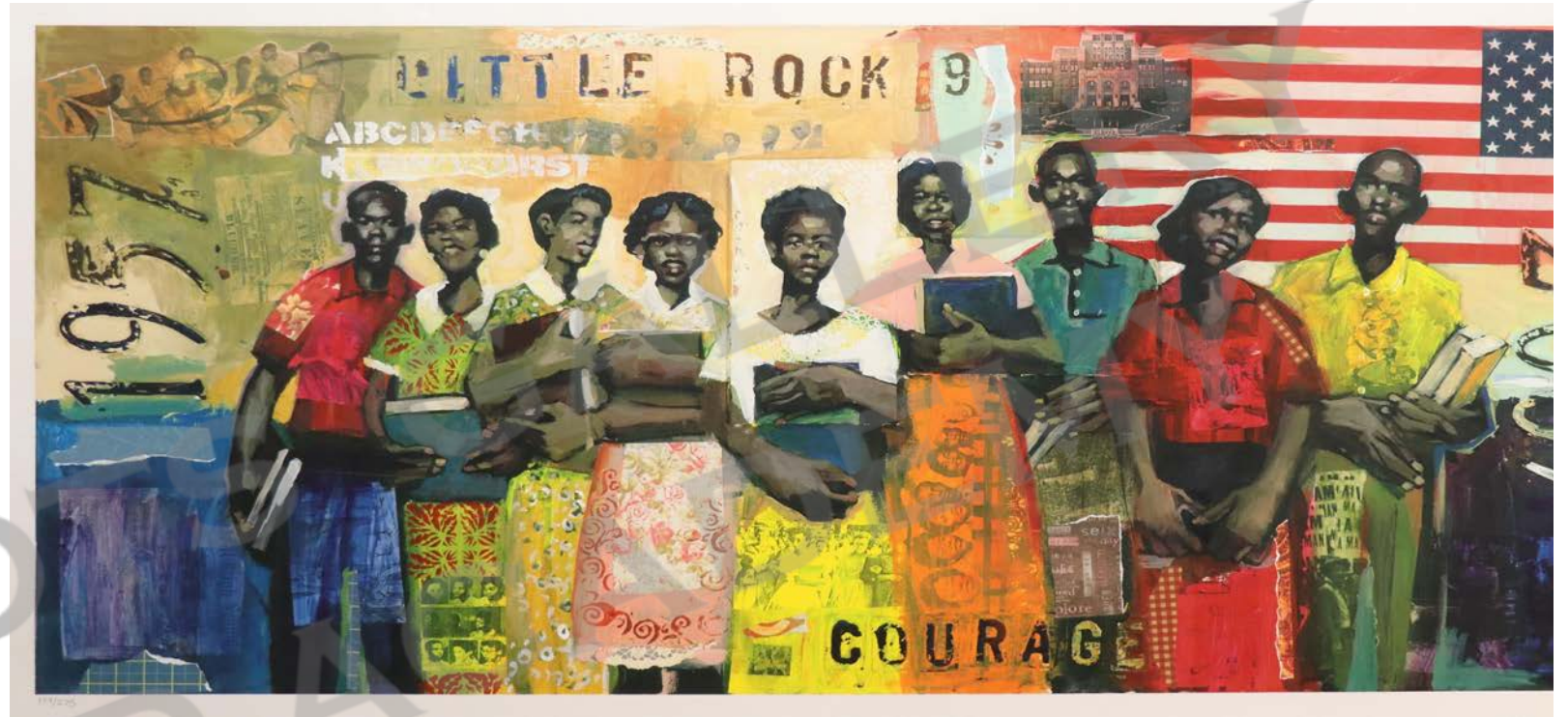


**Little Rock 9**  
**CHARLY PALMER**

Silkscreen

25 x 46 in.

2017



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# GRIOTS' GALLERY AND ACADEMY

## **FAMILY**



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# Family

Margaret Burroughs

Lithograph

21 X 16

1995



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# GRIOTS' GALLERY AND ACADEMY

## Genre



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**Washday**  
**Clementine Hunter**  
Tempera on Board  
13½ x 17½ in.



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY

Clothesline

**Larry Nevil**

Oil on Board

11½ x 26½ in.

1998



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
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# **Historical Narratives**



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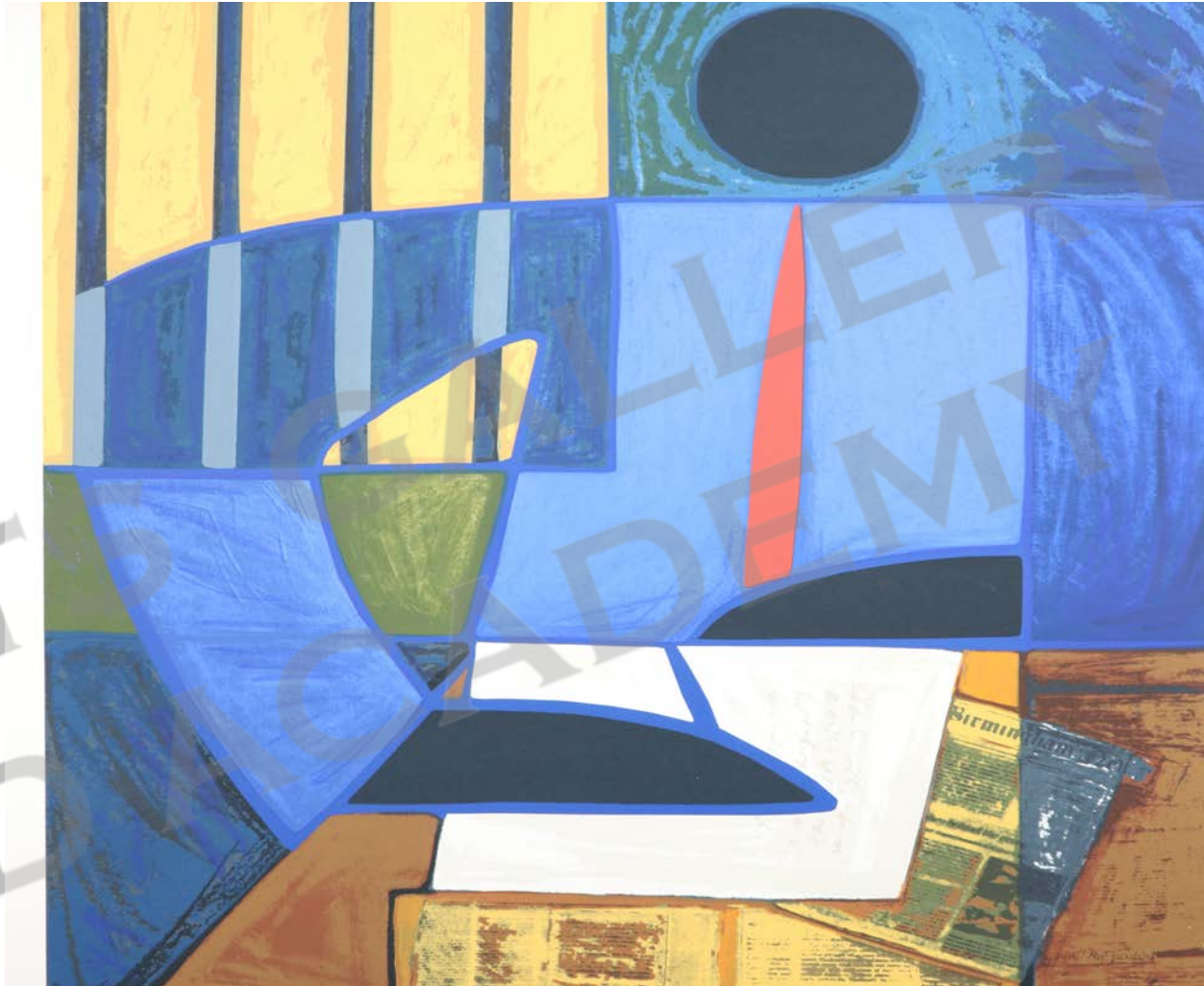


# Letter From A Birmingham Jail

**Joseph Holston**

Silkscreen

30 x 22½ in.



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## ***Thunder Ride***

Burl Washington  
Watercolor

35 x 40 x 1½ in.

2005



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# 4 Acres (Buffalo Soldier)

**HAROLD BRADFORD**

MM-Original

20 x 17 in.

1997



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# Music



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# Music

Harmony

Buchi Upjohn Aghaji

24 X 48 X 1

MM—Acrylic and Pastel on  
Canvas

2018



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# Landscape



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**Lakeside**  
**NAJEE DORSEY**

MM, Oil, and Collage

48 x 60 in.

2019



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# Stone Islet with Trees

**NORMA MORGAN**

Watercolor

10 x 13½ in.

1966



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Untitled—Florida  
Night Indian River  
Chico Wheeler  
Oil on Board  
20 x 28 in.



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# Arkansas River # 19

Henri Linton

Oil on Paper

Dptych--Each Panel  
has similar dimensions

47 x 29 in.

1986



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Summation  
Richard Mayhew  
2013  
Silkscreen  
32 x 44 in.



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
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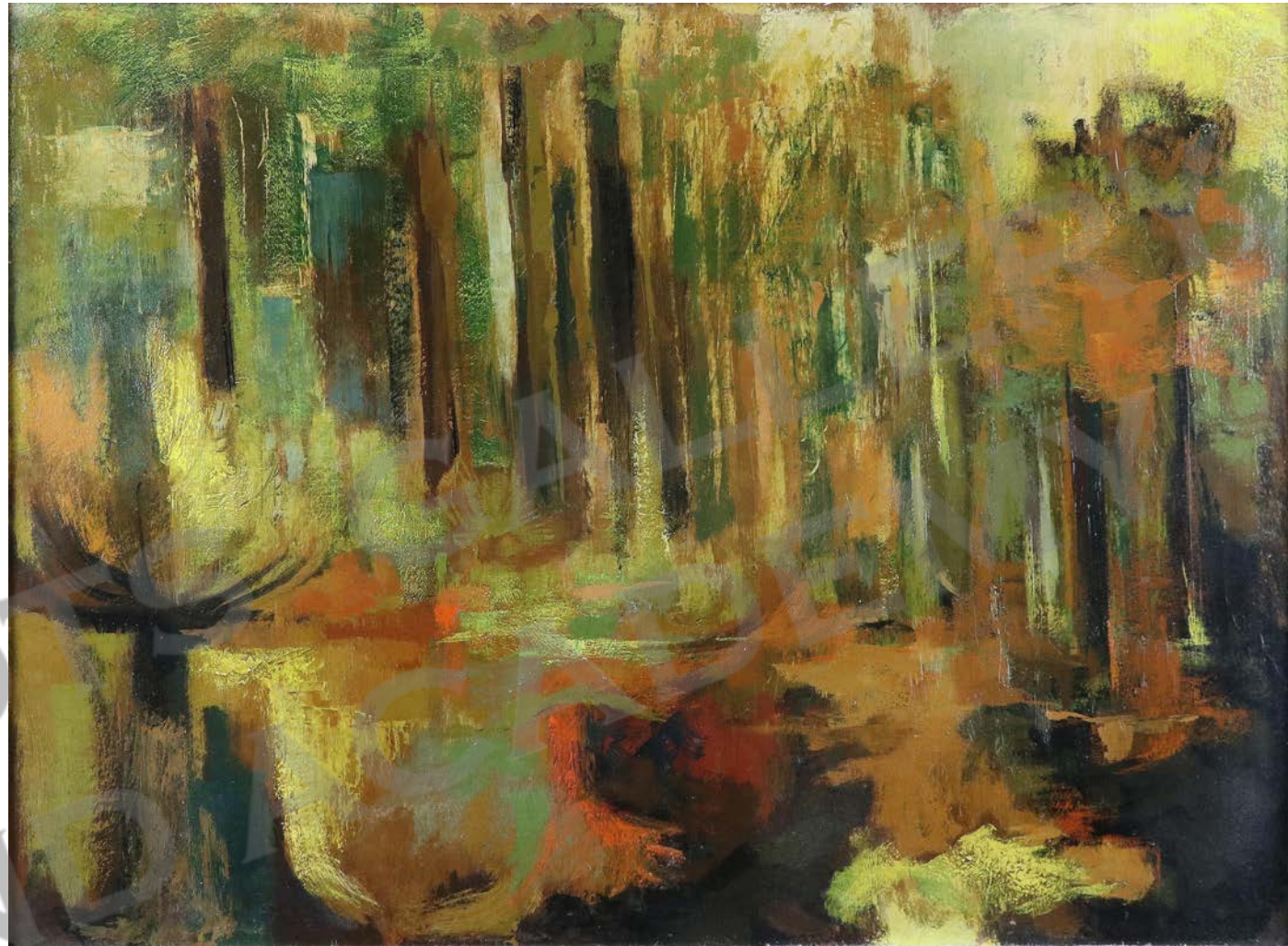
# Untitled—Abstract Composition

**WILLIAM MAJORS**

Oil on Board

18 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 26 in

1958



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY



# Landscapes With Summer Houses

**ROBERT REID**

Watercolor

30 x 22 in.

1988



**GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY**



# Monet's Garden Revisited Dindga McCannon

Hand Embroidery  
Machine Quilted, Batik  
Fabric, Corduroy, Cottons,  
Threads, and Beads

14 x 21 in.

2019



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY



# Untitled—Muddy Road with Barn and Woods

Beni Kosh

Oil on Board

16 x 12 in.

ND



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY



**Untitled—Desert  
Landscape**

**ALVIN C.  
HOLLINGSWORTH**

Mixed Media

25½ x 37 in.

ND



**GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY**

**Silver Trees—  
Revisited, Red**  
Freddie Styles

MM On Canvas

12 x 24 in.

2014



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY



# GRIOTS' GALLERY AND ACADEMY

## Religion



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY

## False Idol

**Al Johnson**

Mixed Media Collage

24 x 24 in.

2009



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY



# Agony in the Garden

JOSEPH LOFTON

Original Mixed Media  
Acrylic/Collage on Canvas

48 x 48 in"

1994-2004



GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY



# The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

**Paul Goodnight**

Silkscreen

40 X 30

1994



**GRIOTS' GALLERY  
AND ACADEMY**