



Gallery of Art

"Creativity is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas creativity encircles the world."

-Albert Einstein 1929

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Digitizing the Collection

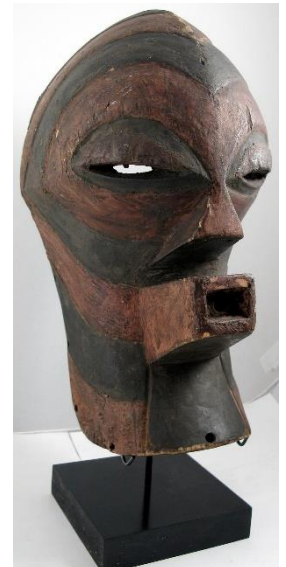
The Gallery Registrar, Dr. Abby Eron, has worked diligently to accurately and thoroughly inventory some 4,200 works of art utilizing the state-of-the-art TMS (The Museum System) Gallery Systems digital searchable collections management database. The goal of the project is to give broad-based and ready access to the collection for students, researchers, museums, and galleries, greatly increasing the profile of the collection in a manner never before achieved.



This major ongoing project entails uploading of high-resolution images of collection objects; recording of object locations across campus, in storage, and on loan; tracking of acquisitions, condition reports, and more. Dr. Eron has also updated the Gallery of Art website with links to fascinating articles and virtual exhibitions.

Cataloguing and Condition Reports on the Contemporary, African, and Oceanic Collections

During August and September, the Gallery Director, Dr. Lisa Farrington, Assistant Director, Mr. Scott Baker, and Registrar Eron have identified, cataloged and prepared condition reports for nearly 1,000 art objects in the Gallery's off-site state-of-the-art storage facility. Among these are contemporary works by renowned African American artists such as Ed Love, Jeff Donaldson, David Driskell, Mildred Thompson, Floyd Coleman, and Sylvia Snowden, as well as rare and classic 19th century works of African and Oceanic Art from Papua New Guinea, Gabon, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Benin, and the Ivory Coast, among other countries, created by peoples such as the Igbo, Ashanti, Baule, Luba, and Senufo. Ongoing research on the entire collection is being conducted by Assistant Director Baker.



Institutional Partnerships:

The National Gallery of Art (NGA)

Nascent plans are being developed to partner with the NGA as a co-host for the upcoming virtual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and art of the African Diaspora. This historic conference, now in its

31st year, brings together respected scholars and artists from around to globe to present panels, lectures, and workshops on contemporary and historical issues in black art. The NGA is also in conversation with Howard to create its first-ever Museum Studies Program, which would give our students direct access to the fields of curatorship and museology—fields that, at present, are marked by a paucity of black professionals. This initiative is being sponsored by a \$400,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation. A CASVA (Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts) Fellow will also teach in the Art Department.

Oberlin College / Fisk University/ Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) / Bank of America

The Gallery of Art plans to exhibit a Bank of America and Oberlin College sponsored show on the iconic Jazz musician and photographer Milton Hinton in Winter 2022. As part of this initiative, HU students have been invited to apply for an 8-week intensive museum leadership program in either collections management, curatorship, conservation, or development, sponsored by co-partners Fisk University and LACMA; and Bank of America has offered to fund the Gallery’s conservation efforts for up to \$25,000.

University Partnerships

The Gallery of Art, the Howard University Library, and the Howard University Hospital will be partnering to exhibit works by students and faculty in these spaces and, in the case of plans for the new hospital, to integrate creative art and design into the very makeup of the structure. These initiatives will enhance visitor and patient experience and expose a much broader swathe of the Howard Community to the visual arts and the gems of the Collection.

Loans to Important Exhibitions



Alma Thoman. *Blue Abstraction*, 1961

The Gallery and University Art Committee continue to negotiate loans of art from the collection to major museums nationwide, bringing national attention to the masterworks of African American artists such as Aaron Douglas, David Driskell, Charles White, Alma Thomas and Edmonia Lewis. Partnerships have been made with the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the High Museum in Atlanta, the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which plans to feature Edmonia Lewis’s sculpture *Forever Free* as a central element in an upcoming exhibit on slavery. Several of these institutions have agreed to offer internships to Howard University students interested in museum professions. These loans will bring welcomed national attention to masterworks in the University Art Collection.

Playing the Changes: The Life and Legacy of Milton Hinton
a traveling exhibition of the Oberlin Conservatory Library

ILLUSTRATED EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

OBERLIN
COLLEGE CONSERVATORY

Panel 01

Panel 02

||| Fifty black-and-white photographs by Milton J. Hinton, along with ten freestanding biographical panels | Page 4

To request additional information, email: con.special@oberlin.edu

Grant Activity

The Mellon Foundation has awarded the Gallery a grant of \$550,000 to fund much needed upgrades to the Art Collection. Among these initiatives are increased staffing, conservation, expanded storage, photographic documentation, and more. A draft budget and proposal prepared by Drs. Farrington and Eron have been submitted to the Foundation's Arts & Culture Division with approval for the grant expected by end-year. Furthermore, the Gallery has been awarded a \$175,000 IMLS Cares Act grant (Institute of Museum and Library Services) to document the collection with high resolution photographs for reproduction in our own and other scholarly publications. The goal is to make our collections readily searchable and accessible to students, scholars, art patrons, art institutions, and aficionados.

Rights and Reproductions

Works from the collection have recently appeared in the international publication *The Tablet* (UK) and will be appearing in several upcoming volumes including

Black Modernisms Seminars (essay by Dr. Kellie Jones, Center for the Advanced Study in the Visual Arts)

Portraits of Resistance: Activating Art During Slavery (Dr. Jennifer Van Horn, Yale University Press)

The Aesthetics of Marble: From Late Antiquity to the Present (essay/ed. By Dr. Gerhard Wolf, Hirmer)

Five American Painters: Lois Dodd, Rackstraw Downes, David Driskell, Yvonne Jacquette, and Alex Katz in Conversation with Sharon Corwin [tentative title] (Colby College Museum of Art)

Republics and Empires: Italian and American Art in Transnational Perspective, 1840-1970 (essay by Dr. Caitlin Beach, Manchester University Press).

Kobena Mercer, *Alain Locke and the Visual Arts* (Yale University Press, forthcoming 2022)

National Gallery of Art, *A Tribute to David C. Driskell* (2020), film

Lauren Lessing, University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, "drive-in" lecture presentation

Valerie Cassel Oliver, *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse* (Virginia

Museum of Fine Arts, exh. cat., forthcoming 2021) – in connection with loans

Hazel Ervin, *What the Scriptures, Proverbs, Maxims, Aphorisms, Wise Sayings and Memorable Quotations Teach Us Still About Character* (J. H. Publishing, forthcoming 2021) – inspiration for abstract cover graphic

Jean Robertson, Alison Palmer, et al., *The History of Art: A Global View* (Thames & Hudson, forthcoming 2021) – for timeline thumbnail in textbook, had already been approved for larger illustration

J. Walz and S. Feman, eds., *Alma Thomas: Everything is Beautiful* (Yale University Press, exh. cat., forthcoming 2021)

The Rights and Reproductions initiatives further exposes the stellar HU art collection to national and global audiences.

Public Relations and the Media

Gallery Director, Dr. Lisa Farrington, spoke on FOX 5 DC on the history of African Americans murals. The segment aired on February 21. Filmed on campus, it featured the famed Charles White mural *Five Great American Negroes*. After spending a laudatory year on exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of Art in New York, the loan has now been returned to its home in the Law Library. The reinstallation was supervised by Dr. Farrington, Dr. Eron, the Gallery Registrar, and Mr. Scott Baker, Assistant Director of the Gallery.

Watch the film at <https://www.fox5dc.com/video/896003>



Alumna Highlight

Each issue of the Newsletter will feature an artist, collector, art historian, patron, or curator from the Howard Community. In this issue we feature Bisa Butler,

a multimedia artist and Art Department graduate whose solo exhibition is on view at the Art Institute of Chicago until Fall 2021. In the film “Quilting for the Culture” she talks about her exceptional Howard education and the AfriCOBRA tradition of the 1970s which was spearheaded by another Howardite, Jeff Donaldson who served as faculty, Chair and Dean of Fine Arts. Ms. Butler states “I was an art major at Howard University and [it] had a strong influence on my outlook on art. It informed me because it was a really strong tradition. It was one thing to teach your students how to construct a painting, how to compose an interesting composition, but how do you define African American culture?” <https://youtu.be/dCkNMK2QtUY>



Actual (subject to change)

David Driskell: Drawing on Life Traveling Show from University of Pennsylvania (TBA / Winter 2022)

Milton Hinton Traveling Show from Oberlin College (Jan – March 2022)

Faculty and Student Shows (April – June 2022)

Summer 2022 To Be Announced

Gallery Staff

DIRECTOR

Dr. Lisa E. Farrington

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FINE ARTS AND DIRECTOR OF THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY GALLERY OF ART

Farrington earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Howard University in 1978. She then completed a master's of arts degree at American University. She also earned a master's degree in philosophy and a doctorate in art history from the City University of New York Graduate Center.

As an award-winning academic author, Farrington has lectured on three continents and authored or co-authored 10 books and dozens of scholarly essays, including two award-winning historical texts for Oxford University Press: *African-American Art: A Visual and Cultural History* and *Creating Their Own Image: The History of African-American Women Artists*. In addition, she was the 2008 Endowed Scholar of the Humanities at Spelman College and won the coveted Creative Capital Writers Award from the Andy Warhol Foundation for her manuscript on African American artist Emma Amos.



Scott Baker
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Art Gallery

✉ sbaker@howard.edu



Abby Eron
REGISTRAR
Art Gallery

✉ abby.eron@Howard.edu

MA 1975; BFA 1972 Howard University

PhD 2020 University of Maryland

Exhibition Schedule

Virtual (subject to change)

David Driskell Memorial Exhibition (March-May 2021)

Collection Highlights (Summer 2021)

Faculty and Students Shows (April – June 2021)

The Art Students League at Howard (Fall 2021)