

33RD



JAMES A. PORTER COLLOQUIUM ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND ART OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

SHAPING SPACE: AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS IN PUBLIC ART AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

APRIL 13-15, 2023

13th - David C. Driskell Center

14th - National Gallery of Art-The Center

15th - Howard University Gallery of Art



JAMES A. PORTER COLLOQUIUM

ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND ART OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA



About the James A. Porter Colloquium

The James A. Porter Colloquium, established at Howard University in 1990 by former Department of Art Chair Dr. Floyd C. Coleman, is named in honor of the late Dr. James A. Porter, scholar, art historian and former Chair of the Department of Art Howard University. His seminal 1943 publication *Modern Negro Art* formed the foundation for the scholarly study of African American Art. The annual colloquium builds on Dr. Porter's pioneering work to nurture the scholarly study, appreciation and celebration of African American Art and has attracted scores of internationally renowned speakers, among them: David C. Driskell, Lisa E. Farrington, Okwui Enwezor, Lowery Stokes Sims, Robert Farris Thompson, Kelli Jones, Valerie Cassell Oliver, artists Lorna Simpson, William T. Williams, Sam Gilliam, Lyle Ashton Harris, Chakaia Booker and Lorraine O'Grady.

National Gallery of Art

Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (the Center)

The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (the Center) at the National Gallery of Art, founded in 1979 and located in the National Gallery's East Building, is a research institute that fosters study of the production, use, and cultural meaning of art, artifacts, architecture, urbanism, photography, and film worldwide from prehistoric times to the present.



DAVID C.
DRISKELL
CENTER

David C. Driskell Center

Established in 2001, the Driskell Center provides an intellectual home for artists, museum professionals, art administrators and scholars who are interested in broadening the field of African diasporic studies. The David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland, College Park, honors the legacy of David C. Driskell (1931-2020) —distinguished university professor emeritus of art, artist, art historian, collector, curator and philanthropist— by preserving the rich heritage of African American visual art and culture.



Howard University Gallery of Art

Dating from 1870 in its original form as the Historical Picture Gallery, the Howard University Gallery of Art was officially established in 1928 by action of the Board of Trustees to "make revolving exhibitions of contemporary arts and crafts available for visitation and study." The Gallery formally opened on April 7, 1930 with a traveling exhibition of oil paintings, watercolors, and drawings assembled and circulated by the College Art Association of America. After the success of this exhibition, a policy and program leading to the development of a permanent collection was adopted. James V. Herring, founder of the Department of Art, and James A. Porter, internationally renowned art historian and critic, were the earliest directors.

HONOREES & SPEAKERS



Melvin Edwards, Lifetime Achievement Award

Melvin Edwards (b.1937) is a pioneer in the history of contemporary African American art and sculpture. Born in Houston, Texas, he began his artistic career at the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA, where he met and was mentored by the Hungarian painter Francis de Erdely.

In 1965, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA organized his first solo exhibition, which launched his professional career. Edwards moved to New York City in 1967. Shortly after his arrival, his work was exhibited at The Studio Museum in Harlem, and, in 1970, he became the first African American sculptor to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Martha Jackson Jarvis, Lifetime Achievement Award

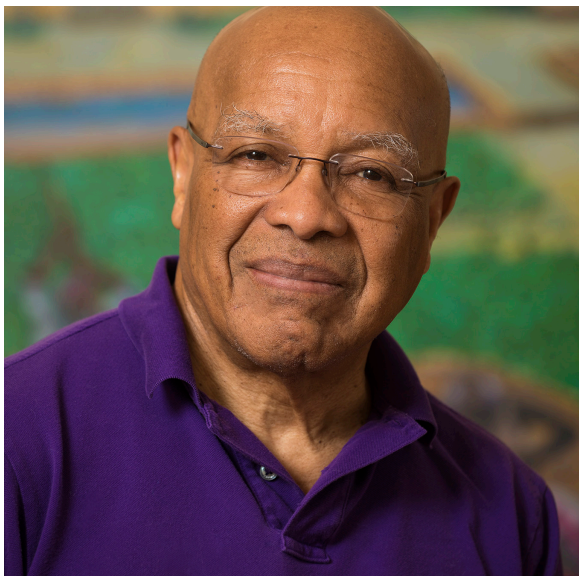
Martha Jackson Jarvis is a Washington DC. sculptress. She holds a BA from Temple University and MFA from Antioch University and continued her studies in mosaic technique and stone cutting in Ravenna, Italy. Her works have been exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Studio Museum, and the Anacostia Museum, among others Her public works of art in and around D.C. include pieces at the Anacostia Metro Station, Prince George's County Courthouse, and at the Philip Morris corporation.



Keith Morrison, Lifetime Achievement Award

Keith Morrison, born in Jamaica in 1942, is an artist, critic, curator, and former university administrator. He has exhibited internationally, and his art is in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Gallery of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian American Museum of Art. He represented Jamaica at the 2001 Venice Biennale. He was the US critic and cultural envoy to the 2008 Shanghai Biennale.

He has published many articles, such as "Art Criticism: A Pan-African Point of View," and catalogs such as Art in Washington and Its Afro-American Presence: 1940–1970; and Caribbean Transitions. Rene Ater wrote his biography: Keith Morrison, in 2004. He has earned many awards and the Jamaica National title Commander of Distinction.



HONOREES & SPEAKERS



Uzikee Nelson, Lifetime Achievement Award

Allen Uzikee Nelson was born in 1938, into the family of John and Sarita Nelson in Tupelo, Mississippi. Uzikee, as he is now more affectionately known, is the fifth of the Nelson's seven children. In 1965, UZIKEE received a Bachelor of Science, in Engineering Technology from the Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Nelson, subsequently became a faculty member at the University of the District of Columbia, in its Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Technology Department.

In 1970, Nelson created his first major work of art — a fifteen foot steel sculpture commissioned by the NAACP for a neighborhood park in Peoria, Illinois. UZIKEE, now a full-time conveyor of iconic African art, has practiced some form of artistic expression his entire life. In describing his philosophy, Nelson says, "all art is representative of culture."

Dr. Walter O. Evans & Mrs. Linda J. Evans, Humanitarian Award

Dr. Walter O. and Linda J. Evans have made a lifelong commitment to preserve and illuminate the work of African American artists. Dr. Evans has spent over forty years collecting materials—including artwork, manuscripts, books, and artifacts—related to the African American experience. Motivated by the lack of inclusivity in museums, Walter began collecting African American paintings, sculptures, photographs, and prints in the late 1970s. In the early 1990s, civil rights leader and family friend W. W. Law encouraged them to display their collection at the Beach Institute African American Cultural Center in Savannah, Ga., sparking national and international recognition. The exhibition, managed by Linda, traveled for 16 years, centering artists so often relegated to the margins, and consisted of works that would later form the foundation of the Evans Collection gifted to the Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) Museum of Art in 2005. The Evans Collection spans 150 years of creative expression, from Robert S. Duncanson's landscape paintings to Richard Hunt's maquette for a monumental sculpture titled Middle Passage. In 1998, Dr. and Mrs. Evans established the Walter O. Evans Foundation for Art and Literature. Dr. Evans served as the president of the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation as well as Board of Director member at the Detroit Institute of Art. Mrs. Linda J. Evans currently serves as president of the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation.



Mrs. Patricia Turner Walters, Legacy Award

Mrs. Patricia Turner Walters has been collecting African American art since the 1980s. She is gifting over 150 works to Howard University, where her husband, the civil rights activist, political strategist, and scholar, Dr. Ronald W. Walters (1938-2010), served as professor in the Political Science Department for 25 years, with nine as chair. They married in 1963. She was his closest confidante and edited many of his books. Mrs. Walters now chairs the Advisory Council of the Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center at Howard University. She created an endowed scholarship fund in Dr. Walters's name, and it awards \$5,000 scholarships to selected Political Science majors.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. Walters graduated cum laude in Pre-Social Work with a minor in Sociology from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mrs. Walters was a National Methodist Scholar and Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. She was selected for the national Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Mrs. Walters is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She worked at the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission in Maryland for 30 years.



HONOREES & SPEAKERS



Dr. Cheryl Finley, *Committed to Memory: The Art of the Slave Ship Icon* (Princeton University Press, 2018), Book Award

Cheryl Finley is Associate Professor of Art History. She holds a Ph.D. in African American Studies and History of Art from Yale University. With nearly 20 years of award winning research on historic and contemporary images of the transatlantic slave trade, her seminal study, *Committed to Memory: the Art of the Slave Ship Icon*, is now available from Princeton University. This monograph is the first in depth study of the most famous image associated with the memory of slavery, a schematic engraving of a packed slave ship hold, and the art, architecture, poetry and film it has inspired since its creation in Britain in 1788. Another of Dr. Finley's works also published this year, *My Soul Has Grown Deep: Black Art from the American South* (Yale University Press, 2018), accompanies the exhibition *History Refused to Die: Highlights from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York through September 23, 2018.

Dr. Rebecca Van Diver, *Designing a New Tradition: Loïs Mailou Jones and the Aesthetics of Blackness* (Pennsylvania State University Press 2020), Book Award

Dr. Rebecca VanDiver is an associate professor of African American art in the Department of history of art and architecture at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *Designing a New Tradition: Loïs Mailou Jones and the Aesthetics of Blackness* (Penn State University Press). With a scholarly background rooted in the disciplines of Art History and Black Studies, VanDiver's research focuses on 20th century Black women artists and more recently the use of ephemeral print in African American art. Her writing has appeared in *Art Journal*, *American Art*, *Archives of American Art*, *Callaloo*, and museum catalogues.

Her research has received support in the form of fellowships from the National Endowment of the Humanities, Institute for Citizens & Scholars, and the American Council of Learned Societies, among others.



Jordana M. Saggese, David C. Driskell Distinguished Lecture

Jordana Moore Saggese (she/ her) is Professor of modern and contemporary American Art at the University of Maryland, College Park and the former Editor-in-Chief of the College Art Association's *Art Journal*. Trained as an art historian, Saggese's work focuses on modern and contemporary American art with an emphasis on the critical expressions of blackness. She is an internationally-recognized expert on the work of the American painter Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-88), and has published two books on his life and work: *Reading Basquiat: Exploring Ambivalence in American Art* (UC Press, 2014) and *The Jean-Michel Basquiat Reader: Writings, Interviews, and Critical Responses* (UC Press, 2021). Her forthcoming book *Heavyweight: Black Boxers and the Fight for Representation* is forthcoming from Duke University Press.



HONOREES & SPEAKERS



Mabel O. Wilson, Opening Lecture

Mabel O. Wilson is the Nancy and George E Rupp Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and a Professor in African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University, where she also serves as the director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies. With her practice Studio&, she was a member of the design team that recently completed the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia. Wilson has authored *Begin with the Past: Building the National Museum of African American History and Culture* (2016), *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums* (2012), and co-edited the volume *Race and Modern Architecture: From the Enlightenment to Today* (2020). She is a founding member of *Who Builds Your Architecture? (WBAYA?)*—an advocacy project to educate the architectural profession about the problems of globalization and labor.

Renée Ater, James A. Porter Distinguished Lecture

Professor Renée Ater holds a B.A. from Oberlin College, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Maryland. She has twenty-plus years as an educator and is currently serving as Provost Visiting Professor in Africana Studies at Brown University (2020-2022). A public scholar who works at the intersection of art and history, Dr. Ater's research focuses on monuments, memory, race, and public space. She is the author of *Keith Morrison*, volume 5 of *The David C. Driskell Series of African American Art* (Pomegranate Books, 2005) and *Remaking Race and History: The Sculpture of Meta Warrick Fuller* (University of California Press, 2011; 2021 pbk). She has also written on a range of public monuments including the *Unsung Founders Memorial* at the University of North Carolina; the *African American Civil War Memorial* in Washington, DC; and the *Unwavering Courage in the Pursuit of Freedom* memorial dedicated to Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett in Wilmington, Delaware.



33rd James A. Porter Colloquium Program April 13 - 15, 2023



April 13 , 2023 Thursday

David C. Driskell Lecture at the David C. Driskell Center at University of Maryland, College Park

Ringgol Saar: Meeting on the Matrix Program + Porter Colloquium
Distinguished Lecture (in collaboration with Howard University)

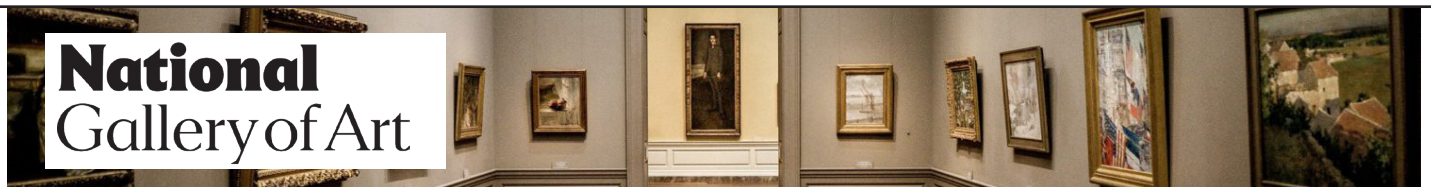
5:00 - 5:45 pm: Panel Discussion: No Q and A. Live event in Gallery

- Introduction by David Bringham
- Curlee Raven Holton
- Latoya Hobbs

6:00 - 7:00pm : David C. Driskell Distinguished Lecture Professor Jordana Moore Saggese Live event in Gallery

- Introduction by Curlee R Holton
- David C. Driskell Distinguished Lecture Professor Jordana Moore Saggese

Lecture title: "This is not a Drill: Performance+ Endurance+ the Black Body in Public Space"



April 14, 2023 Friday

National Gallery of Art-The Center, proceedings in NGA East Building, East Building Auditorium

10:15am- 10:30am Opening Remarks:

- Steven Nelson, Dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art
- Phylicia Rashad, Dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, National Gallery of Art
- Raimi Gbadamosi, Chair of the Department of Art, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts

Day Moderator: Melanee C. Harvey, Chair of the James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora

10:30am-11:00am Opening Lecture: Mabel O. Wilson, Nancy and George Rupp Professor, Columbia University

Lecture Title: "Unknown, Unknown: A Provisional Architecture of Black Commemoration"

11:00am- 12:00pm Panel Discussion: Building the Change We Seek: Art and Architecture:

- Curtis Clay, Director of Architecture at the Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations
- Ronnie McGhee, College of Fellows, American Institute of Architects & Lecturer, Department of Architecture, Howard University
- Jay Coleman, Artist
- Curry Hackett, Lecturer, School of Architecture, University of Tennessee
- Keith Anderson, Interim Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Government of the District of Columbia
- Panel Moderator: Sandy Bellamy, Co-Chair of the Porter Colloquium, Lecturer Department of Art, Howard University

12:00pm - 12:30pm Screening of Short Documentary on Uzikee Nelson, Lifetime Award Recipient

12:30 pm- 2:00 pm LUNCH

2:00pm- 2:30pm Shaping Space-A Conversation:

Keith Morrison, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient and Camille Brown, Assistant Curator, The Phillips Collection

2:30pm- 3:00pm Keynote Artist Lecture:

Melvin Edwards, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient with subsequent conversation facilitated by Tobias Wofford, Associate Professor of Art History, School of the Arts, Virginia Commonwealth University

3:00pm- 3:45pm James A. Porter Distinguished Lecture:

Renee Ater, Provost Visiting Associate Professor, Africana Studies, Brown University

Lecture Title: "Public Art as Community Praxis"

3:45pm- 4:15pm Floyd Coleman Distinguished Artist Conversation:

Moderator: Lauren Glover, Manager, Public Art Department,
Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Government of the District of
Columbia

Martha Jackson Jarvis, Lifetime Achievement Recipient, in conversation
with Njena Jarvis

Concluding Remarks



April 15, 2023 Saturday

Howard University - Howard University Gallery of Art & College of
Medicine Third Floor Auditorium (Masks are Required)

Saturday's programming is dedicated to the Ron and Patricia Walters
Collection Symposium, organized in conjunction with the Howard University
Gallery of Art exhibition, Genesis: The African American Experience in Art, The
Ronald W. And Patricia Turner Walters Collection

9:00am – 10:30am Light Breakfast at Childers Hall at Howard University & Viewing of the Walters Collection Exhibition at the Howard University Gallery Art

10:30am – 10:45am Depart for School of Medicine Auditorium for Colloquium Proceedings

10:45am- Opening Remarks

Kathryn Coney-Ali & Raul Moarquench Ferrera-Balanquet, Co-Directors of
Howard University Gallery of Art

10:45am – 12:15pm Panel Discussion: Sustaining a Tradition: Collecting African American Art

Moderator: Kathryn Coney-Ali, Co-Director of Howard University Gallery of Art

- Myrtis Bedolla, Curators, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, Maryland
- Walter O Evans, Collector of African American Art, Literature and
Ephemera
- Mrs. Linda J Evans, Collector of African American Art and Literature and
Ephemera

- Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, Executive Director, Hampton University Museum
- Lela Johnson Sewell-Williams, Curator of Manuscript Division, The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University
- Scott W. Baker, Assistant Director, Howard University Gallery of Art

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch (On Your Own)

1:30pm - 2:30pm Research Presentations: Art History in Progress: Student Research Panel

Panel Moderator: Abby Eron, Registrar, Howard University Gallery of Art

Howard University Student Presentations

- Rebecca Shipman
- Jada Brooks
- Kelis George

Atlanta University Curatorial Collective Student Presentations

- Aiyana Thompson
- Chloë Catrow
- Kaniah Pearson
- Tenesha Carter-Johnson

2:30pm – 4:30pm Panel Discussion: Black Artists in Dialogue

Moderator: Associate Dean Gwenolyn Everett, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine

- Akili Ron Anderson, Associate Professor, Howard University
- Jessica Marie Hopkins, Artist, Washington DC
- Delita Martin, Artist, Houston, Texas
- James Phillips, Associate Professor, Howard University
- Richard Ward, Artist & Director, HETConnect Studios
- Preston Sampson, Artist, Washington, DC
- Kevin Cole, Artist, The Compound Studios, Georgia

4:30pm - 4:45/5:00pm: Closing Remarks

Kathryn Coney-Ali & Raul Moarquech Ferrera-Balanquet, Co-Directors of Howard University Gallery of Art

6:00 PM -10:00 PM Awards Gala @ The Rubell Museum

