

JAMES A. PORTER

COLLOQUIUM

ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS &
ART OF THE AFRICAN DISPORA

ART LEGACIES & AESTHETIC FUTURES: ART AT HOWARD



ART LEGACIES, AESTHETIC FUTURES: ART AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

April 4, 2024: The Driskell Center at the University of Maryland,
College Park (In-Person)

April 5, 2024: The Phillips Collection,
Washington DC (In-Person and Live-streamed)

April 6, 2024: Howard University,
Washington DC (In-Person Only)

In partnership with the Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, the Phillips Collection, and the Howard University Gallery of Art, the Department of Art in Howard University's Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts invites the public to convene to examine art legacies and aesthetic futures of Howard University. This colloquium completes a multiyear centennial celebration of the Department of Art, concluding with a celebration of the centennial anniversary of Alma Thomas' graduation as the university's first art graduate.

This colloquium seeks to highlight new scholarship on the history of art at Howard University from the Department of Art across students, faculty, and institutional units to the rich art collections housed across the campus. Colloquium proceedings will explore historical and contemporary institutional partnerships that have made Howard an anchor in the American art landscape. Programming will also feature sessions dedicated to considering future trajectories for the arts at Howard.



James A. Porter

A pioneer in establishing the field of African American art history, James A. Porter was instrumental as the first scholar to provide a systematic, critical analysis of African American artists and their works

of art. An artist himself, he provided a unique and critical approach to the analysis of the work. Dedicated to educating and writing about African American artists, Porter set the foundation for artists and art historians to probe and unearth the necessary skills essential to their artistic and scholarly endeavors. The canon is born from Porter's determination to document and view African American art in the context of American art.

Born December 22, 1905 in Baltimore, Maryland, Porter had a long, illustrious career in the visual arts, as an artist and historian. Under the direction and encouragement from James V. Herring, head of the Art Department at Howard University,

Porter studied painting, drawing, and art history. Upon graduating with a bachelor of science in 1927, he accepted a position as instructor of painting and drawing at Howard. Being an educator did not keep Porter from honing his artistic skill and creating art. Throughout his academic professional career, Porter painted and exhibited nationally and internationally. This dedication was acknowledged in 1933 when he received the Schomburg Portrait Prize, from the Harmon Foundation, for the painting entitled Wornan Holding a Jug (1930). Porter was highly regarded for his finely rendered portraits, as exemplified in his award.

While Porter never stopped nurturing his artistic ability, he also did not stop educating himself. After he completed undergraduate work, Porter attended the Art Institute in New York. He also studied in Paris at the Institute of Art and Archeology at the Sorbonne, in which he received a Certificat de Presence in 1935. When Porter returned to the United States, he pursued a Master of Arts in Art History from New York University in 1937. Porter's thesis, which would later become the foundation for Modern Negro Art, focused on African American artists and artisans.

During his educational pursuits, Porter met Dorothy Burnett, a librarian at the Harlem branch, where he researched neglected black artists. On December 27, 1929, Porter and Dorothy were married. They had one daughter, Constance Porter. This union would prove to be important, not only personally but also professionally. Dorothy worked with Porter, as she provided bibliographic information critical to his investigations. Dorothy, along with Porter, has a rich relationship with Howard

University. She was the director of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center where she catalogued information about African American artists.

Porter's interest in nearly forgotten and often ignored artists of African descent came from reading a brief article on African American landscape artist Robert Scott Duncanson. Due to the brevity of the account, Porter was inspired to research Duncanson and other artists of African descent. Were it not for this article, Modern Negro Art may have not come to be.

Porter, a devout educator, taught at Howard for more than forty years, heading the Art Department and the Art Gallery. Because of his dedication to the teaching profession, the National Gallery of Art selected him as one of the best art teachers in the nation. An honor he received with twenty-four others, he was presented the award by Lady Bird Johnson in 1965.

James A. Porter left a cultural and educational legacy to those passionately involved in the area of African American art. The drive to explore and firmly document artists of the Diaspora continues today. Porter's artistic and historical work provides a solid foundation in which current and future scholars can build upon. Many scholars owe Porter for the inspiration to probe the depths of African American visual culture and attest to its significance to American culture.

- Jeffreen M. Hayes

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST GRADUATE OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF ART

The 34th Annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora Dates: April 4-6, 2024

April 4 , 2024 (Thursday) 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

4:30 pm Public Art Dedication & Artist Talk with Melvin Edwards

6:00 pm James A. Porter/David C. Driskell Book Award Lecture at the Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park

James A. Porter/David C. Driskell Book Award presented to Huey Copeland, BFC Presidential Associate Professor in the Department of History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania & Steven Nelson, Ph.D., Dean for Center for the Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at The National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

Lecture Presented by: **Steven Nelson, Ph.D.**, Dean for Center for the Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at National Gallery of Art, Washington
Registration Link: <https://go.umd.edu/driskellporter2024>

April 5, 2024 (Friday)

10:00 AM - 8:30 PM- Porter Colloquium at the Phillips Collection, Washington DC

PROCEEDINGS WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON PHILLIPS COLLECTION YouTube Channel

10:30am - 11:00am Opening Remarks:

- Jonathan P. Binstock, Ph.D., Vradenburg Director and CEO, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
- Phylcia Rashad, Dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University
- Raimi Gbadamosi, Ph.D. Chair of the Department of Art, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University



Top:

ALMA W. THOMAS

Washington, D.C. Member, Dramatic Club, '21, '24. Will devote to Art.
"What is more far-reaching than beauty?"

VICTOR J. TILLANE, *Phi Beta Sigma*, "Footsie"

G. M. School, Montgomery, Ala. 1st Lieut. A. E. C., '17-'19. President, Chi Rho Sigma Chemical Society. Assistant Instructor in Organic Chemistry. President, Section A, French III, Class '21, '24. Will pursue Sciences.
"Make up your mind, then go to it."

CHAS. WILLIAM WADE, *Phi Beta Sigma*, "Spood"

Treasurer, Junior Class. Will continue study of Medicine.
"We can escape a full only by continual studying."

CYRIL ANDERSON WALWYN

Mico College, Jamaica, B.W.I. Morgan College, '20-'22. To study Medicine.
"Be ever careful."

JANET DeWITT WHITAKER, *Alpha Kappa Alpha*

Bricks High School. Member Postulozzi-Froebel Society, and Le Cercle Francais. Will teach.
"Life is made up not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things."

Bottom:

CARRIE HILTON WILLIAMS, *Zeta Phi Beta*

St. Paul High School, Lawrenceville, Va. Zeta Phi Beta Vice-President, '28. Scholarship student, '22-'24. Member Le Cercle Francais. Will teach.
"Virtue alone is true nobility."

LEON WALTER WILLIAMS, *Kappa Alpha Psi*, "Leob"

High School, Baltimore, Md. Junior College at Lincoln University. Vice-Polemarch, Kappa Alpha Psi, '21-'22. Vice-President Athletic Association, '21, '22. Track team, '20, '21. Will teach.
"Don't wait for an opportunity, make one."

WILLE BEATRICE YANCEY, "Bill"

Dunbar High School, Washington, D.C. Recording Secretary, Zeta Phi Beta, '23, '24. Corresponding Secretary, Postulozzi-Froebel Society, '24. Will teach.
"Sticks always to stay on the road to success."

ROBERTA ELIZABETH YANCEY, *Alpha Kappa Alpha*, "Bert"

Garnett High School, Charleston, W.Va. Member Le Cercle Francais and Kappa Min. Scholarship in Education. Will study French.
"May my work shine and help some soul to see."

Day Moderator: Melanee C. Harvey, Ph.D., associate professor of Art History & Chair of the James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora, Howard University

11:00 am - 11:45 am James A. Porter Distinguished Lecture

Rebecca Van Diver, Ph.D., Associate Professor, History of Art and Architecture, Vanderbilt University, 2023 James A. Porter Book Award Honoree
Lecture Title: "Hallowed Halls and Walls: The Legacy of Howard University Department of Art"

Introduced by: Jada Adkinson, Art Major in Photography, Howard University

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm Floyd Coleman Distinguished Session Design Legacies and Futures-A Conversation:

Edward T. Welburn, former General Motors' Vice President of Global Design (2003-2016), in conversation with Prof. Mark Bartley, Department of Art Associate Chair, Howard University & Dr. Cheryl Miller, Department of Art Adjunct Lecturer, Howard University

Introduced by: Tatum Sabin, Art Major in Painting, Howard University

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm LUNCH

2:00 pm - 2:25 pm From the Curatorial Frontlines: A Bold and Beautiful Vision: A Century of Black Arts Education in Washington, DC, 1900 - 2000
Samir Meghelli, Ph.D., Curator, Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian Institution

Introduced by: Kelis George, Art Major in photography, Howard University



DR. REBECCA VANDIVER
PORTER DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Rebecca VanDiver is an associate professor of African American art at Vanderbilt University where she is currently a 2023-2025 Chancellor's Faculty Fellow. She received her A.B. in History of Art and Architecture from Harvard University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History and Visual Studies from Duke University where she also obtained a graduate certificate in African American studies.

Her research centers on 20th century Black women artists and more recently uses of ephemeral print in African American art. She is the author of *Designing a New Tradition: Lois Mailou Jones and the Aesthetics of Blackness* (Pennsylvania State University Press 2020), a critical single artist study on the African American painter and Howard University Professor Lois Mailou Jones (1905-

1998). She has published on modern and contemporary African American art culture in journals such as *American Art*, *Art Journal*, *Archives of American Art Journal*, and *Callaloo*. At present she is working on a new book project that considers African American artistic engagements with ephemeral print during periods of intense racial unrest through the work of Charles White, Elizabeth Catlett, and Faith Ringgold, provisionally titled: *States of Emergency: the politics of ephemerality in African American art*.



ED WELBURN
(FLOYD COLEMAN DISTINGUISHED
SESSION SPEAKER)

Detroit. Ed Welburn still holds the distinction of having been the highest ranked African American in the global automotive industry. He is the only car designer to have his archives housed in the Smithsonian and he has received numerous lifetime achievement awards, was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 2017, the Corvette Hall of Fame in 2022, and received an Emmy for his work with PBS.

Today, Ed's passion and design creativity has led him to shoe design, which started as a hobby and grown into a major obsession. In addition, he is a judge of classic cars at Pebble Beach, Amelia Island, Greenwich, Newport, Switzerland, and Suzuki, Japan. Ed is an active board member of Exploring The Arts, a foundation founded by the late, Tony Bennett. Ed Welburn is the founder and CEO of Welburn Media Productions and has a major movie project under development based on a true story in Black history which has been erased.

Most of all, Ed enjoys time spent with family and friends, and has placed maintaining great health as a priority.

Ed Welburn has been referred to as “The man who brought beauty back to General Motors Design”. He was only the sixth head of design in the long history of General Motors, and the first to lead the division on a global basis, leading over 1,400 creative people working in 11 design centers, in 7 countries. Ed Welburn led the designs sold in over 140 markets around the world, including Corvettes, Cadillacs, GMCs, Buicks, and international brands like Opel, Vauxhall, and Wuling. He has many favorite projects, but designing the presidential limousine, known as The Beast, for President Obama, was a true privilege.

Welburn is a proud graduate of the Howard University College of Fine Arts, where he studied painting, life drawing, sculpture, and design and has an honorary doctorate from the Center for Creative Studies in

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm Reports from the Field: How HU Collections Help Reshape the Stories We Tell (This panel is supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art & the Phillips Collection)

- Adrienne Childs, Ph.D., Senior Consulting Curator, The Phillips Collection
- Denise Murrell, Ph.D. Merryl H. and James S. Tisch Curator at Large, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Elyse Nelson, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of European Sculpture, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Jessica Bell Brown, Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art, Baltimore Museum of Art

Moderator: Camille Brown, Assistant Curator, The Phillips Collection

15 Minute Break

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Roundtable: A Proud Continuum Howard Alumni in Museums & Galleries (Sponsored by the Howard University Gallery of Art)

- Taylor Aldridge, Visual Arts Curator and Program Manager, California African American Museum (CAAM), Los Angeles.
- Jane Carpenter-Rock, Ph.D., Deputy Director for Museum Content and Outreach
- Rhea Combs, Ph.D., Director of Curatorial Affairs, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC
- Kinshasha Holman Conwill, Deputy Director Emeritus, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Gwendolyn Everett, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University

Introduction & Student Responders: Jada Brooks (National Gallery of Art-Howard University Intern, 2023-2025) and Sacha Reid (National Gallery of Art-Howard University Intern, 2022-2024)

15 Minute Break

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm Future Trajectories: Call & Response

Opening Statement by Department of Art Chair Raimi Gbadamosi, PhD, Howard University

Response across Conversation

- Jacqueline Carmichael, Associate Professor & Area Coordinator for Interior Design, Howard University
- Larry W. Cook, Associate Professor & Area Coordinator for Photography, Howard University
- Elka Stevens, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Area Coordinator for Fashion Design, Howard University
- Reginald Pointer, Associate Professor & Area Coordinator for Ceramics and Sculpture, Howard University

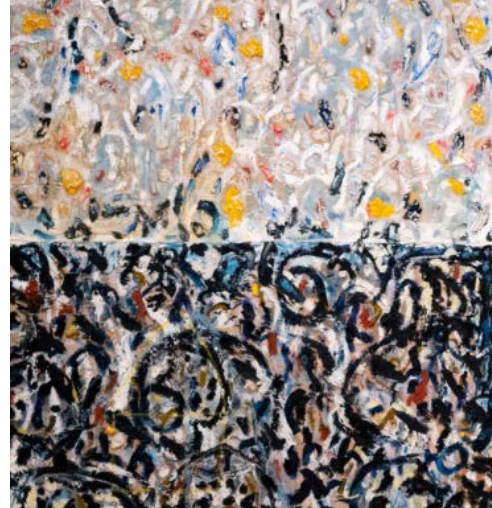
Moderator: Sandy Bellamy, Adjunct Lecturer & former co-chair of the 2023 James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora, Howard University

Introduced by: Bryten Gant, Art Major in Electronic Studio Arts, Howard University & Takovah Townsend, Art Major in Graphic Design, Howard University

6:00 pm - 6:15 pm Concluding Remarks

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Reception

(Sponsored by the Phillips Collection)



FLOYD NEWSUM STUDENT SESSION GUEST ARTIST

Floyd Newsom's career spans some 42 years as a visual artist. He received an MFA degree from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Newsom lives in Houston, Texas where he has worked as an artist and professor of art at the University of Houston Downtown. He is married to his lovely wife, Janice, and they have two successful professional young adult children.

Newsom has been in more than 103 solo and group exhibitions. His works have been displayed at the Taft Museum in Cincinnati, the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, the Polk Museum, Lakeland Florida, the David C. Driskell Center, Maryland, Museum of Fine Arts Houston and many others across the United States. He has also exhibited at the Califia Gallery, Czech Republic, Horazdovice, and the American Center in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Floyd Newsom's works are in the permanent collections of museums like the Smithsonian National Museum of African History and Culture, Washington DC, open

in September 2016 with one work on display. The Studio Museum of Harlem, Philadelphia Museum of Arts, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the David C. Driskell Center, University of Maryland College Park, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and other museums. His works have been published in catalogs, books, and magazines. The most recent publication is "Outside the Lines", published by the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston. This catalog illustrates the abstract art of American artists across the country.

His public art commissions number six. Although I'm a painter, four of the public artworks were sculptures, and one was a four-paneled painting. He believes that an artist should work in many mediums. As an artist, he has created prints, drawings, and sculptures. He is known for my paintings on paper, some of which are mounted on canvas.

Although his professional career spans more than four decades, his involvement with the creative arts dates back to my early school years. Art is more than a profession; it is his passion.

JAMEA RICHMOND EDWARD
FEATURED HU ART ALUM. COVER ART



Jamea Richmond-Edwards was born and raised in Detroit, where she currently resides. She studied painting and drawing at Jackson State University before earning an MFA from Howard University in 2012.

An interdisciplinary artist, she creates paintings, monumental-scale assemblages, films, and immersive installations. While utilizing imagination, mythos, and creativity, she draws inspiration from her childhood and Genealogy.

Richmond Edward's art has been exhibited at the Delaware Art Museum, California African American Museum, Charles Wright Museum of African American History, and Kravets/Wehby Gallery. She is a 2018 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant.

has also worked as an illustrator, public school teacher, university art librarian, and museum educator. A person of many talents, he is currently gathering materials for future publications, including black quarterbacks since 1924 and the artistic & visual advertisements and reviews of Blacks in Cinema since 1904.

SCOTT BAKER LEGACY AWARD



Scott Baker received the B.F.A. in 1972 and the M.A. in 1975. He is currently Assistant Director and Chief Curator of the Gallery of Art at Howard University. While studying musicology at the British Museum in 1974, he was advised by Dr. Jeff Donaldson, then chairman of the Department of Art, to pursue a career in Art Librarianship and Art Museum Administration. He

April 6, 2024 Saturday

10:00 am-12:00 pm Morning Museum Tours across DC
Free but registration is required for limited spaces

Tour Options

- A Bold and Beautiful Vision: Black Art Education at Anacostia Community Museum
- The Spectacle of Power at Moorland Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

12:00 pm -1:30 pm tours of Howard University Gallery of Art
(no registration required)

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ceramics Sale (Childers Hall 2003)

2:00 pm-3:00 pm Open Studio Sessions:

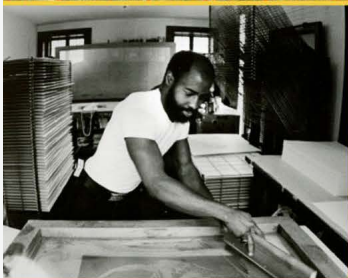
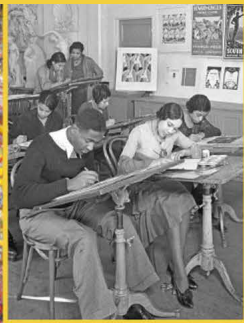
- Mark Bartley, Associate Chair, Department of Art, Howard University (Childers Hall 2016)
- Maria Fenton, Adjunct Lecturer of Fashion Design (Childers Hall 2006)
- Chair of the Department of Art, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University Raimi Gbadamosi, Ph.D. (Gallery of Art)

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Art Alum Book Talk:

Adrian Loving: Fade to Grey: Androgyny, Style & Art in 80s Dance Music (Childers Hall 2022)

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Reception & Artists Meet and Greet

with HU Art Faculty (Gallery of Art) Visual Arts, Music, Food, and Fun!



Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts
Department of Theatre Arts *presents*

THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND

by Marcus Gardley

Director: **Nicole Brewer**
Musical Director: **Amadou Kouyate**
Choreographer: **Royce Zackery**

April 2-5, 2024 7:00 pm
April 6, 2024 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Al Freeman Jr. Environmental Theatre Space
2455 6th St NW Washington, DC 20059

Tickets:

\$5 Students | \$10 Faculty/Staff/Alumni/Military/Seniors | \$20 General Admission



Click here
for tickets.



MAR 23, 2024 — MAR 02, 2025

A BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL VISION

A Century of Black Arts Education in Washington, D.C., 1900-2000



Acknowledgments

The Terra Foundation
Art Bridges

Adrienne Childs at the Phillips Collection

Camille Brown at the Phillips Collection

Ashley Whitfield at the Phillips Collection

Jordana Moore Saggese at the David C. Driskell Center

Abby Rebecca Eron at the David C. Driskell Center

Ashley Whitfield at the Phillips collection

Natalie Courtney at the Phillips collection

Dean Phylicia Rashad

Assistant Dean Denise Saunders

Thompson

Kathryn Coney-Ali

Raul Moarquench Ferrera-Balanquet

Sheilah Tucker

Tiara Harper

Tyeesha Munnerlyn

Kelis George

Jada Adkinson

Tatum Sabin

Skyler Henry

Bryten Gant

Jazzlyn Rainey

Edinam Bruce

Ashley McDonald

Millennium Art Salon

Mel & Juanita Hard

Kimberly Jacobs



Chadwick A. Boseman
College of Fine Arts



HOWARD
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PHILLIPS

The Phillips Collection

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