

**Delilah William Pierce**  
**Artist and Educator**  
**March 3, 1904 - May 27, 1992**

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**Resume**

**Born: 1904 Washington, DC**

**Died: June 1992**

**Professional Career:**

- Art Teacher on Junior and Senior High School Levels, DC Public Schools 1925 - 1952
- Professor of Art and Art Education and Supervisor of Student Teachers in Art Education, DC Teachers College 1952 - 1971 (Retired)
- Visiting Professor, Art Education, Howard University 1968 - 1969
- Exhibiting Artist/Painter since 1948 - 1992

**Education: Art and Art Education**

- Diploma and Teacher Certification, Miner Normal (Miner Teachers College/DC Teachers College/University of DC) Domestic Art Education/Fine Art Education, 1923-1925
- BS, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1931 - Fine Art and Education
- MA, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City Studio Work - Lois Jones/Celine Tabary, James Wells, Ralph Pearson, V. Vytlačil, Jack Perlmutter
- Post Graduate Work, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, New York University. Summer 1924
- Educational Travel and Study, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and many areas of the USA. 1952 - 1962 - 1971 - 1975.
- Honorary Degree/Doctor of Humane Letters, 15th Commencement, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC May 9, 1992.

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**Gallery Affiliations:**

Artist Mart, Georgetown, DC - 1960 - 1974  
(Closed)An Exhibiting Associate)

Margaret Dickey Gallery, DC Teachers College, 1956 - 1970 (Helped establish and maintain)

Smith-Mason Gallery, Washington, DC, 1967 - 1986

Canal House Gallery, Georgetown, DC, 1978 - June 1982  
One of founders, a co-op Co-chairman of scheduling and hanging committee

Old Sculpin Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

Cousen-Rose Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

Evans-Tibbs, Washington, DC

Barnett-Aden Gallery, Washington, DC

**Exhibitions:**

**One-person Shows: (20 Shows)**

1957 & 1969, The Margaret Dickey Gallery, DC Teachers College (2)

1963 - 1974, The Artists Mart, Georgetown, DC (6)

1970 & 1980, DC Mayor's Office (2)

1979, Canal House Gallery (1)

1979, Old Sculpin, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, (1)

1980 & 1981, Cousen Rose Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, (2)

1982, Richmond, VA (1)

1983, University of DC, A Retrospective of 44 years (1)

1987, Cosmos Club, Washington, DC (1)

1988, The Charles Sumner School Museum/Archives (1)

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**Group Shows:** (Including Invited, Juried and Members Shows)

1949, 1950, 1951, Lois Jones/Celine Tabary Studio Shows  
1952, 1953, Atlanta University - "Negro Artists" (National)  
1952, 1953, 1955, Smithsonian Institution Metro Area Shows  
Including Invited, Juried & Members Shows)  
1952 - 1978, Smithsonian Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
1957, 1958, 1959, Corcoran Gallery Area Shows  
1957, 1958, 1962, 1963, 1965, The Margaret Dickey Gallery, DCTC  
1958, 1959, 1960, Barnett Aden Gallery Shows  
1958, Chevy Chase Center Fair  
1959, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Area Show  
1959 - 1972, Society of Washington Artists Shows  
1960, 1961, Corcoran Gallery Traveling Show  
1960 - 1974, The Artists Mart (Georgetown DC) Associate Member  
1960, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1976, Howard University Gallery  
1960, 1964, 1966, 1976, 1977, Martha's Vineyard Island Shows  
1960, American Art League Show  
1964, 20th Century Gallery Williamsburg, VA.  
1964, American Federation of Artists Traveling Show  
1966, Rehoboth Art League, NJ  
1967 - 1980, Smith-Mason Gallery Shows  
1968, "16 Washington Artists" Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
1968, Hampton Institute, Hampton, VA.  
1969, Catholic University Gallery, DC  
1970, "Aesthetic Dynamics-Afro-American Images", DEL.  
1970, Negro College Fund-Alaine Locke Show, NYC  
1970, Smith-Mason Gallery and NJ State Museum National  
Exhibition of Black Artists  
1972, "Reflections: Afro-American Festival of Arts and  
Culture" University of Pennsylvania  
1973, "12 Contemporary Artists" Martin Luther King, Jr. Library  
1973 - 1980, US Art in Embassy Program, Cairo, Egypt and Zaire  
Africa  
1973 - 1975, US Black Artists Exhibit, US Embassy Africa  
Dar-Es-Salaam Tanzania  
1974, "Black and African Festival of Art and Culture",  
University of Pennsylvania  
1974 - 1980, Mayor of DC, Gallery  
1974, Artist Equity Association, Art Barn, DC  
1976, DC Bi-centennial Show  
1977, FESTAC, Lagos, Nigeria, NCA Division  
1977, Barnett-Aden Collection Show, Pittsburgh, PA  
1981, 1982, Traveling Show, "Forever Free - Art by African  
American Women, 1882-1980", Ill. State University

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1982, 83, 84, "Armory Show", Armory Pl. Gallery, Silver Spring, MD  
1982, National Museum of American Art, DC, "A Life in Art",  
Alma Thomas  
1982, Corcoran Gallery of Art, "10 + 10 + 10" Show  
1982, Sun Gallery, "3 Friends" DC  
1982, Montpelier Cultural Arts Center, "2 Artists"  
1983, Schenectady Museum, NY, "Black Dimensions in Art"  
1983, Evans-Tibbs Gallery, "Six Master Artists"  
1983, Art 7-Interational Fair, Convention Center, DC  
1985, DC Slide Registry of Artists, "8 area Artists"  
1985, Washington Project for the Arts  
1986, Kenkeleba Gallery, NYC, "Unbroken Circle"  
1986, The Bethune Museum, Archives, "Black Women in Visual Arts"  
1987, The Charles Sumner School Museum/Archives 1988, Anacostia  
Museum/Smithsonian Institution - DCAA Members Show,  
"Inspiration", 1961 - 1989, DC  
1990, Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library, Shepherd Park  
Branch  
1989 - 1992, Smithsonian Travel Show - Evans Tibbs Collection,  
19 USA Museums, North/South, East/West.

**Members Shows:**

1950 - 1992, DCAA; WWCA; AEA; NCA; SWA.

1969 - 1980, Smith-Mason Gallery  
1978 - 1982, Canal House Gallery, Georgetown, DC (Co-op)  
1958 - 1974, The Artists Mart Georgetown, DC  
1971 - 1992, Old Sculpin, Edgartown, Massachusetts  
1980 - 1992, Cousen-Rose Gallery, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

**Art Seminar Participant:** (Artist/Art Educator)

1982, NCA, VA. Chapter, VA. Museum, Richmond, VA.  
1982 - 1983, Telephone Seminar, Bennett College, Greensboro, NC  
1983, Smithsonian-Anacostia Museum  
1983, Gallery Evans - Tibbs  
1983, UDC, Retrospective of Experiences as an Artist and Art  
Educator  
1985, NMAA Smithsonian Institution-Continuing Traditions,  
"Conversations With Artists"  
1989, Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution DCAA -  
A New View: Black Women as Artists  
1991, WCA - N.M.W.A. - A New View 1991 - 1992, DCAA; Washington  
W.C.A. - at N.M.W.A. "1991 Honoree Program" and Conferences.

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**Awards (Major):**

- 1958, Chevy Chase Center Fair, 2nd Prize
- 1959, 1961, Corcoran Gallery, Jury Selected Travel Show
- 1962, The Agnes Meyer Fellowship to Travel and Study Africa, Europe and Middle East
- 1963, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Award for Outstanding Service and Achievement in Art and Art Education
- 1964, American Federation of Arts, Purchase Award
- 1971, Smith-Mason Gallery, Service Award
- 1977, FESTAC, Lagos Festival Citation
- 1980, "Delilah W. Pierce Day" for Service and Cultural Contributions: 1.By Mayor of DC and  
2.By Washington Bar Association
- 1981, National Conference of Artists, Service Award
- 1983, "Profile of Delilah W. Pierce, Artist/Educator", Howard University Public TV, Chanel 32, Interview on Life experiences and showing some of paintings
- 1983, DC Federation of Civic Assoc., Inc., Annual Award for Cultural Service to Community
- 1984, US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Recognition of outstanding contribution in the Pursuit of Excellence
- 1984, Washington, DC Branch, AAUW - Professional Achievement, Status of Women and Impact upon Society
- 1984, Gallerie Triangle, "Ten Artist at Their Best", Recognition of outstanding contribution to Washington, DC and to the Arts
- 1984, ETA PHI SIGMA Sorority, Honorary Membership/Art & Art Education
- 1985, NMAA, Smithsonian Institution, "Continuing Traditions" A Festival of Afro-American Arts-Conversation with Artists.
- 1988, Distinguished Black Women Award - BISA.
- 1989, Howard University Arts Department Alumni Award
- 1990, "The Society" - re-contribution to "The Arts"

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**Awards (Major) Continued:**

- 1972 - 1992, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library - Leadership Awards for Service to Enrich Library Environment
- 1990, The Links - service as Juror of future Artists of America
- 1991, Women's Caucus for Art: "Honoree 1991" For Outstanding Achievement in the Visual Arts
- 1991, March 29, National Conference of Artist/33rd Annual Convention, An Esteemed Elder of NCA

**Collections:**

- Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2009 acquisition;
- University of Maryland University College, 2009 acquisition;
- Howard University; DC Teachers College;
- Smith-Mason Gallery Eugene A. Clark Elementary School;
- Barnett-Aden Collection;
- University of the District of Columbia;
- Howard University Hospital Children Center; and
- National Museum of Women in Art - Library (American Album).

**Selected Bibliography:**

- Bigelow, Barbara, Elizabeth Oakes, Robert Rauch, John Wolff, and Janet Zupan. *St. James Guide to Black Artists*. Detroit: St. James Press and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 1997.
- Dover, Cedric. *American Negro Art*. Greenwich: New York Graphic Society, 1960.
- Henkes, Robert. *The Art of Black American Women: Works of Twenty-Four Artists of the Twentieth Century*. North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 1993.
- Kinard, John R. *The Barnett-Aden Collection*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.
- Kinard, John R. and Delilah Pierce. *Inspiration 1961-1989* (exhibition catalogue). Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989.
- Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art, 1971.
- Washington Artists Today Director, A.E.A., 1972
- Who's Who in American Art., 1973.
- Afro-American Artists Biographical Directory, Boston, 1973.
- Johnson & Unger. Land of Progress. Ginn & Co., 1975.
- Artists, USA, 1975 - 1976.
- International Who's Who in Art, 1975 - 1976.

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- Who's Who in Black America, 1975 - 1978.
- News Items: (Art News) The Evening Star, The Washington Post, The Afro-American, Vineyard Gazette, The Cape Cod Times
- "New Directions": The Howard University Magazine 1976.
- Pierre-Noel, Lois Jones. Black Women in the Visual Arts, 1976.
- Congressional Record, June 15, 1979, by Honorable J. Conyers  
Reference: Washington Post Article; by Jo Ann Lewis, April 28, 1979.
- Means, Judith P., "Delilah Pierce." Art Voices/South.  
Washington, DC: May/June 1980.
- New Washington Sun, February 18, 1983 (News items)
- Afro-American, February 19, 1983 (News items)
- Congressional Record, May 11, 1983, Tribute to Six Washington Artists, by Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy, DC House Representative
- International Who's Who in Community Service, 1974
- The New York Art Review - Les Krantz, 1988 - 1989
- Who's Who in American Art, 1989 - 1990, R.R. Bowter
- Smithsonian Magazine, January 1989
- "African American Artist - 1880 - 1987" Evan-Tibbs Collection  
Smithsonian Institute. Traveling Exhibition Service, Wash., DC,  
1989 through 1992
- Profile of Delilah W. Pierce, Artist Educator - Howard  
University Public TV - Channel 32.

**Publications:**

- 1949, Eastern Arts Journal (October and November)  
"Can Art Serve As A Balance Wheel in Education"
- 1952, Negro History Journal  
"The Significance of Art Experiences in the Education of the Negro."

**Art Affiliations:**

- Committee on Art Education, Museum of Modern Art, New York City, Panel Participant, 1950
- National Art Education Association
- Arts Committee AAUW
- Artists Mart, 1960 thru 1974
- Scholastic Art Awards (Regional), 1966
- Society of Washington Artists, Treasurer, 1966 to Present
- National Conference of Artists, Treasurer, 1972 - 1981
- Artists Equity Association, DC Chapter Corresponding,  
Secretary,

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- 1973 & 1974
- 3rd Vice President, 1975 - 1977
- Parliamentarian, 1978
- Washington Watercolor Association, Vice President, 1974 - 1976

**Art Affiliations Continued:**

- Treasurer, 1978 to 1983, Board Member 1974 - 1983,
- Elected Honorary Member 1983
- Exhibits Chairman
- W.W.A. - Community Exhibits Hanging at "The Arts Club"
- WCA - Washington Chapter - 1991 Honoree
- DuSable Museum, Chicago, Illinois 1974 to 1992
- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 1976 - 1978
- Library for the Arts, DC Public Library, 1976 - 1983
- Cultural and Beautification Committee, DC Federation of Civic Association
- Friends of Kennedy Center, Founder-Member
- The National Museum of Women in the Arts - A Founding Friend Member
- National Museum of African Art
- Smith-Mason Gallery
- Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (Smithsonian Institution)
- DC Art Association
- Martha's Vineyard Art Association, Old Sculpin Gallery, Massachusetts
- Mayor's Committee on Handicapped Individuals, for the National Poster/Graphics Contest, DC Edition, 1983 & 1984
- The National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1985
- Eta Phi Sigma Sorority, Art Sorority, (Art and Art Education)
- Friends of the Corcoran Gallery
- Cultural Alliance

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**Other Affiliations:**

Partial,

- National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa,  
    (Professional Teachers Organization)  
    (Past offices, Local & National President, Treasurer,  
    and Program Director)
- N.E.A., Leader of College Student N.E.A, DC, Teachers  
  College
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- NAACP, Life Member
- Designer: National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa  
    National Award Medal  
    National Banner  
    National Krinon Journal Cover
- Women's Auxiliary Board, Eastern Branch Boys and Girls Clubs  
    of Greater Washington
- AAUW - Washington and National Chapters
- National Museum Women in the Arts - (Founding Friend  
  Member).