

Lucille Elizabeth Davis “Malkia” Roberts

MALKIA (Swahili, “queen”)

“As a black artist and a black teacher, I have been gripped by the threads of an elemental and pervasive spirituality in the art of the so-called “Third World”. As a black woman, I feel strongly about my painting as a thread in that tapestry. I see it as an instrument of nourishment and strength for black people. Not political propaganda, not “anti-art”, but a source of positive imagery to negate subtle distorted stereotypes of the past, and to undergird our growing sense of identity, pride and direction.”

Malkia Roberts, 1971

Born: February 2, 1917, Washington DC

Died: April 28, 2004, Washington, DC

EDUCATION

1939 MFA, University of Michigan

1936 BFA, Art Education, Howard University (magna cum laude, student of Lois Mailou Jones)

POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

Catholic University (Washington, DC)

Parsons School of Design (New York)

Private Study with Jose Gutierrez (Mexico)

Institute of African Studies Fellowship, University of Ghana (Legon)

Academie de la Grande Chaumiere (Paris)

New York University, sabbatical study with Hale Woodruff (New York)

First World Festival of African Arts, attendee with the American Society of African Culture (Dakar, Senegal)

CAREER

- 1991 Visiting Professor, Elizabethtown College
- 1989 Volunteer Lecturer, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
- 1987 Volunteer Lecturer, Museum of African Art, Washington DC
- 1979 Professor of Painting and Design, Howard University, Washington D.C (until 1985)
- 1976 Associate Professor, Howard University, Washington DC (until 1979)
- 1976 Visiting Artist, Arlington Virginia Public Schools (Art in Non-Western Cultures Program)
- 1975 Artist-in-residence, Fairfax County Public Schools
- 1973 Co-moderator and Studio Teacher, Division of Instructional Television, Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting (until 1975)
- 1974 Duke Ellington High School of the Arts, Washington DC (position?)
- 1972 Professorial Lecturer, American University, Washington DC (until 1977)
- 1972 Assistant Professor, Washington Technical Institute, Washington DC (until 1974)
- 1970 Visiting Associate Professor, African Art, State University of New York, College at Oswego (until 1971)
- ???? Instructor in Fine Arts, District Teachers College, Washington DC (with Jack Perlmutter)
- ???? Professor, Barber Scotia College, Concord, NC
- 1968 Volunteer Lecturer, Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC

AWARDS

- 1992 Honorary Doctorate, Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, 1992
- 1988 Distinguished Alumni Award at Charter Day from Howard University
- 1988 Key to the Cities of Savannah and Miami (for solo exhibitions and lectures)
- 1986 St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Senior Center Award, Washington DC
- 1977 Outstanding Service Award, DC Chapter, National Conference of Artists
- 1973 Who's Who in American Art Award
- 1972 James A. Porter Special Award in Painting, Cleveland State University
- 1969 Twenty-Sixth Annual Atlanta University Show Popular Award – Painting
- 1966 Evening Star Award, Society of Washington Artists, 72nd Annual Show
- 1965 First Prize Award, Society of Washington Artists, Members Show
- 1963 Agnes Meyer Fellowship

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

- 1963 Potters' House Gallery, Washington DC
- 1966 Washington Gallery of Art
Prudential Center, Boston, Massachusetts (two-man show with Eva Miller)
- 1968 DC Teachers College
West Virginia State College
- 1969 Salve Regina Gallery (College?) of Art, Washington DC
- 1970 Florida Memorial College Library, Miami
- 1971 Howard University Gallery of Art, Washington DC (SPECTRUM)
College Museum, Hampton Institute, Virginia
Smith-Mason Gallery, Washington DC
- 1974 Watkins Gallery, American University, Washington DC
- 1976 Lincoln University, Pennsylvania
- 1978 WEB DuBois Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1980 Paul Robeson Cultural Center, Pennsylvania State University, University Park
- 1984 Bethune Museum and Archives, Washington DC
- 1987 Beach Institute, Kings-Tisdell Cottage Foundation, Savannah, Georgia
- 1988 Gallery Antigua, Miami
- ???? College Museum, Hampton Institute, Hampton VA ()

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1966 Museum of Fine Art, Florida State University
- 1971 Smith-Mason Gallery
- 1971 James A. Porter Gallery of Afro-American Art
- 1972 Acts of Art Gallery, New York
- 1980 Washington Women's Art Center, Washington DC Library Gallery, University of Maryland at Baltimore County
- 1981 DC Armory, Washington DC
- 1983 Nyangoma's Gallery, Washington DC
Volta Place Gallery, Washington DC
- 1986 Evans-Tibbs Collection, Washington DC
Bethune Museum Archives, Washington DC
- 1989 Tatum Arts Center, Hood College, Frederick, Maryland
Society of Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC ()
- 1990 The High Library, Elizabethtown College, Elizabeth, PA ()
Mayor's Mini Art Gallery, Washington DC ()
Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC ()

COLLECTIONS

Atlanta University

Evans-Tibbs Collection, Washington DC

Greensboro Agricultural and Technical University

King-Tisdell Cottage Museum

Spelman College

West Virginia State College

US State Department Arts in Embassies Program (paintings on loan, shown in Karachi, Pakistan and Taipei, Taiwan)

AFFILIATIONS

Artists' Equity Association

Society of Washington Artists

DC Art Association

National Conference of Artists

Eastern Art Association

National Art Education Association

American Society of African Culture

Black Academy of Arts and Letters

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art by J. Edward Atkinson, New York, New American Library, 1971

Forever Free, Art by African American Women 1862-1980 Arna Bontemps 1980

Two Centuries of American Art, David Driskell, 1976 Knopf

The Afro American Artist: The Search for Identity, Elsa Fine, 1973

Afro American Artists: New York and Boston, Barry Gaither, 1970

Two Hundred & Fifty Years of Afro-American Art: An Annotated Bibliography, Lynn Igoe, 1981

The Barnett-Aden Collection, John Kinard, Smithsonian 1974

Art: African American, Samella Lewis, 1978

Art: African American, Samella Lewis, Alan S. Lewis, 1991

Black Artists on Art, Samella Lewis and Ruth Waddy 1969

The Negro in Art: A Pictorial Record of the Negro Artist and of the Negro Theme in Art , Alain Locke 1979

One Hundred Fifty years, Afro-American Art, James Porter, 1966

National Exhibition Black Artists, 1971

American Negro Art in Progress, Pierre-Noel, Lois Jones, Negro History Bulletin, Oct 1967

A&T Univ Lyceum Program 15 Afro-American Women

National Conference of Artists, Winter 1971, Journal

Ralph Harley Jr. "Checklist of Afro-Amer. Art and Artists" The Serif, Dec. 1970

Atkinson, J. Edward, Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art, NY, 1971

Roslyn Walker, A Resource Guide to the Visual Arts of Afro-Americans, South Bend Ind. 1971

PERIODICAL ARTICLES

ROmare Bearden, "The Negro Artist & Modern Times." Opportunity (December 1934)

Margaret Burroughs, "The National Conference of Negro Artists" Atlanta University, 1959

Viktor Lowenfeld, "Negro Art in America." Design Magazine (September 1944)

CATALOGUES AND BROCHURES

Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution. "Gathered Visions. Selected Works of African American Women." Washington DC

Gallerie la Taj. "Malkia Roberts Paintings." Alexandria VA, October 21, 1990-November 11, 1990

The High Library – Elizabethtown College. "The Spirit Moves: The Art of Malkia Roberts." Elizabethtown, PA, February 11-28 1991

The King-Tisdell Cottage. "Odyssey: Malkia Roberts' Paintings." Savannah, Ga. October 18, 1987-November 21, 1987

Mayor's Mini Art Gallery. "Creative Threads." Washington DC August 1 1990-October 6, 1990