

**David Driskell (1931 - 2020)**

**Education**

- 1964 Study Certificate in Art History, Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorisches Documentatie, Den Hague, Netherlands  
1962 MFA, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC  
1955 BFA, Howard University, Washington, DC  
1953 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME  
1937-49 Public Schools of North Carolina

**Selected Solo Exhibitions**

- Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME, 2017, 2006  
Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME, 2016  
Greenhut Galleries, Portland, OR, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2008  
The High Museum, Atlanta, GA, 2014  
DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY, 2019, 2012, 2006, 2003  
David C. Driskell Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2011, 2008  
York College of Pennsylvania, York, PA, 2010  
Greenville County Museum of Art, SC, 2008  
Flint Institute of Arts, MI, 2007  
Hampton University Museum, VA, 2007  
Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans, LA, 2003  
Noel Gallery, Charlotte, NC, 2002  
Newark Museum, NJ, 2000  
Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, The Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 2000  
Bomani Gallery, San Francisco, CA, 1997, 1993

Diggs Gallery, Winston Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC, 1994  
Foster-Tanner Fine Arts Gallery, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL, 1994  
Midtown Payson Galleries, New York, NY, 1993  
Pellon Gallery, Washington, DC, 1990  
Amelia Wallace Gallery, SUNY College Old Westbury, NY, 1989  
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME, 1989  
Fisk University Museum, Nashville, TN, 1987  
Goodwin Art Gallery, Talladega, AL, 1987  
Johnson Gallery, North Carolina State University, NC, 1981  
Middlebury College, VT, 1981  
Collectors Gallery, New York, NY, 1980  
Foundry Gallery, Washington, DC, 1980  
University of Maryland Art Gallery, College Park, MD, 1980  
Bowie State College Gallery of Art, Bowie, MD, 1978  
Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery, Fisk University, Nashville, TN, 1976  
Coordinated Art Program of the Atlanta University Center, Atlanta, GA, 1974  
Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME, 1973  
Virginia Davis Laskey Library, Scarritt College for Christian Workers, Nashville, TN, 1972  
Chattanooga Art Gallery, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN, David Driskell,  
1971  
Tennessee Fine Arts Center, Nashville, TN, 1963  
Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery, Fisk University, Nashville, TN, 1966  
Barnett Aden Gallery, Washington, DC, 1957  
Savery Art Gallery, Talladega, AL, 1956

### **Selected Museum Group Exhibitions**

American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY Anacostia Museum, Washington,  
DC  
Arkansas Fine Arts Center, Little Rock, AK Baltimore Museum, Baltimore, MD  
Birmingham Museum of Art, AL  
Brooklyn Museum, NY  
Bowdoin College Museum, Brunswick, ME Brooks Memorial Gallery, Memphis, TN  
California Afro-American Museum, Claremont, CA  
Carver Museum, Tuskegee, AL Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA  
Colby College Museum, Waterville, ME Columbus Museum of Fine Arts, OH

The David C. Driskell Center, College Park, MD  
Fowler Museum, University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Howard University Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY  
L.B.J. Memorial Library Museum, Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
Katzen Arts Center, American University, Washington DC  
Knoxville Museum of Art, TN  
Louisville Arts Workshop, KY  
Mason-Scharfenstein Museum of Art, Piedmont College, Demorest, GA  
The Monmouth Museum, Lincroft, NJ  
Museum of Biblical Art, New York, NY  
The National Academy Museum & School, New York, NY  
National Museum, Santiago, Chile  
The Newark Museum, NJ Oakland Museum of Art, CA  
Portland Museum of Art, ME Portland Art Museum, OR  
Rhodes National Gallery, Salisbury, Rhodesia  
The Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
San Diego Fine Arts Gallery, CA  
Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Loretto, PA  
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH  
Jan Shrem and Maria Manettie Shrem Museum of Art, University of California, Davis, CA  
Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC  
Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, NY  
The Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA  
The Treet Gallery, Bates College, Lewiston, ME  
The White House, Washington, DC  
The Art Gallery at The University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
University Museums, University of Delaware, Newark, DE Whitney Museum of American  
Art, New York, NY  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT

### **Selected Awards, Prizes, and Citations**

Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA, 2018

Cummings Award for Artistic Excellence, Colby College, Waterville, ME, 2017  
Skowhegan Lifetime Legacy Award, New York, NY, 2016  
MECA Award for National Leadership, Maine College of Art, Portland, ME, May, 2002  
The Frederick Douglass Award, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2002  
The Governor's Arts Awards, Baltimore, MD, 2002  
Presidential Medal of Honor in Humanities, The White House, Washington, DC, 2000  
The President's Medal, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 1997  
Distinguished University Professor of Art, University of Maryland, College Park, MD,  
1995-98  
American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1993-94  
Amistad Research Center Creative Award, 1993  
The President's Achievement Award in Art, Lincoln University, 1991  
Governors Award, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, 1986  
Friends of African Art, Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts, for Recognition of an  
Outstanding Career as a Lecturer, Exhibitor and Writer, 1982  
Meritorious Service in Art, Borough of Brooklyn, and Brooklyn Museum, 1977  
Meritorious Service in Art, City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Museum of  
Art, 1976  
Purchase Award, Birmingham Museum of Art, 1972  
Purchase Award, Tougaloo College Gallery, 1973  
Purchase Award, Arkansas Fine Arts Center, 1975  
Museum Donor Award, American Federation of Arts, 1962, 1964  
Purchase Award, Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1965  
Harmon Foundation Special Award, 1964  
2nd Award in Graphic Arts, Atlanta University, 1961  
John Hope Award in Art, Atlanta University, 1959  
Charles W. Allen Award in Art, Howard University, 1954-1955  
Bocour Progress Award in Art, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, 1953

### **Selected Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants**

Travel Grant, Republic of South Africa, 2001, 1997  
Travel Grant, London, England, 1990 (Private Foundation)  
Research and Travel Grant: Egypt, Saudia Arabia, Yemen and France, 1990 (Private  
Foundation)  
Research and Travel Grant, Tokyo, Japan, 1987

Research & Travel Fellowship (African Culture in the Americas: Brazil), 1983, 1985,  
1987 (Private Foundation)

Research Fellowship Assignment, Art & Humanities, University of Maryland, 1984  
Fellow, Yaddo Foundation, Summer 1980

R.C.F.A. ICRAAE Travel Grant, Mexico City, Mexico, 1978

R.C.F.A. ICRAAE Travel Grant, Jerusalem, Israel, and Athens, Greece 1973

U.S.I.A. Supplementary Grant for African Lectureship & Travel, Sierre Leon, South  
Africa; Ethiopia, Tunesia, Tanzania & Liberia, 1972

U.S.I.A Supplementary Grant for European Lectureship & Travel, England and Holland,  
1972

American Film Institute Grant, 1969

National Endowment for the Arts (Institutional Grant), 1969, 1975

Fisk University - Rockefeller Foundation Faculty Fellowship (Research), 1967 and 1970  
Fellowship for Summer Study, Netherlands Institute for the History of Art, The Hague,  
1964

Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship for Museum Study in Greece, Italy, Spain, France,  
Holland, Denmark and England, 1964

Special Study Grant for Graduate work, The Catholic University of America, Danforth  
Foundation, 1961-62

Scholastic Scholarship in Art, Howard University, 1952-55

Artist Scholarship, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1953

### **Selected Bibliography**

- 2019 Yau, John. "A Shape-Shifting Artist, 87 Years Young," *Hyperallergic*, April 27.  
Brock, Hovey. "David Driskell: Resonance: Paintings 1965-2002," *The Brooklyn  
Rail*, June 5, 2019.
- 2017 Kany, Daniel. "In Rockland, contemporary art takes shape with works by Wetli,  
Cady and Driskell," *Portland Press Herald*, February 26.
- 2016 Robinson, Zandria F. "Listening for the Country, The Shape of Daddy's Hurt,"  
*The Oxford American*, Winter, pp. 84-85, illus.
- 2015 "Art Review: David Driskell's recent work reiterates Falmouth painter's  
greatness," *Portland Press Herald*, August 16.
- 2014 "Redefining mainstream: African-American works take their rightful place in  
history," *Kansas City Star*, February 22.

- 2013 King-Hammond, Leslie, ed. "Ashe to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery," *New York: Museum of Biblical Art*, p. 92 illus.
- Kany, Daniel. "Art Review: Paintings from the melting pot by the great David Driskell," *Portland Press Herald*. 19 August. Web.
- von Winbush, Karen. "4 Questions With One of the World's Leading African American Art Scholars," PolicyMic. 11 June 2013. Web. 11 June.
- Winslow, Margaret. "Curator Corner. David C. Driskell: Scholar, Curator, Artist," *Art is Now*, Spring, p. 7, illus.
- 2012 *African American Art Since 1950: Perspectives from the David C. Driskell Center*. College Park, MD: David C. Driskell Center. pp. 61-62.
- The Bearden Project* (exh. cat.), New York, NY: The Studio Museum, p. 76-77, illus.
- African American Art Since 1950: Perspectives from the David C. Driskell Center* (exh. cat.), Rockville, MD: Printed Images, David C. Driskell Center, p. 61-62, illus.
- Goodbody, Bridget. "Creative Spirit: Five Decades," *Brooklyn Rail*, January.
- Daniel, Christopher. "Prize Fighter," *Urban Lux Magazine*, June 1.
- "Creative Spirit: Outstanding examples of the Art of David C. Driskell at DC Moore Gallery." *Art Daily*. n.p., 06 Jan 2012. Web. 6 January.
- 2010 Franks, Pamela and Robert E. Steele. *Embodied: Black Identities in American Art from the Yale University Art Gallery*. New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, pp. 11, 27.
- Recent Work: David C. Driskell, York, PA*: York College of Pennsylvania.
- 2008 Alpert, Michael. *Doorway*. Thomaston, ME: Cardinal Point Press.
- Komanecky, Michael K. *The Farnsworth and the Art of Our Time*. Rockland, ME: Farnsworth Art Museum, illus. p. 31.
- Wolfe, Townsend. *Visions: Selections from the James T. Dyke Collection of Contemporary Drawings*. Little Rock: Arkansas Arts Center, illus. p. 57.
- 2007 Heartney, Eleanor. "David Driskell at DC Moore," *Art In America* (March).
- May, Stephen. "Charting the Path of a Pioneer," *ARTnews* (May).
- "New Space, Exhibition Showcase Art Legacy," *TERP*, 5:1 (Fall), p.17.
- 2006 Brown, Bruce and Lowery Stokes Sims. *David Driskell: Painting Across the Decade 1966-2006*. Exh. cat. New York: DC Moore Gallery.
- Frischkorn, Rebecca and Reuben M. Rainy. "David C. Driskell, The Artist and the Garden," *International Review of African American Art*, 20:4, pp. 2-13.

- Little, Carl. "Spotlight Reviews: Center for Maine Contemporary Art/Rockport," *Art New England* (October/November), p.20.
- McGee, Julie L. *David C Driskell: Artist and Scholar*. Petaluma, CA: Pomegranate.
- Mullarky, Maureen. "David Driskell: Painting Across the Decade, 1996-2006," *The New York Sun*, October 26.
- 2004 Keyes, Bob. "ARTiculation," *Maine Life*, Sept. 19, Section G.
- 2003 Okediji, Moyo. *The Shattered Gourd: Yoruba Forms in Twentieth-Century American Art*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, pp. 69-70.
- Lewis, Samella. *African American Art and Artists*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp. 151-152, illus.
- 2001 Butters, Patrick. "Scholar-creator of black arts is in class all his own," *The Washington Times*, January 6, section D.
- 2000 Driskell, David. "Rising to the Challenge," *American Art* (Fall), pp.11-14.
- 1998 Driskell, David. "An Artist Recounts the Creative Lead and Move into the 1960s." *International Review of African American Art*. 15.1: 5-7
- Taha, Halima. *Collecting African American Art: Works on Paper and Canvas*. New York: Random House.
- Patton, Sharon F. *African-American Art*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.
- 1997 King-Hammond, Leslie. "David Driskell: Memoir of a Painter cum Scholar." *International Review of African American Art*. 14.1: 4-9.
- 1994 "Three Art Exhibits Planned to Honor CIAA Tournament," *Winston-Salem Journal*, January 30, p. C9.
- "Diggs Gallery to Host February Events," *The Chronicle*, February 3. "What's up at Diggs Gallery?" *AC Phoenix*, January, p. 18.
- "Artistic Legacy: Collection of Art from CIAA Schools on Display at Winston Salem State University," *The Challenger Newspaper*, February 10-16, p.6.
- 1993 Bass, Ruth. "David Driskell at Midtown Payson," *ARTnews* (October).
- 1992 Colby, Joy Hakanson. "Driskell is Opening Eyes to African-American Art," *The Detroit News*, June 25, section C.
- 1979 Hunter, Sam. *Art in Business*.
- 1977 Lewis, Samella. *Art: African American*.
- 1976 Hieronymus, Clara. *Driskell's Decade Here Brought Fame to Fisk*. Nashville, TN: *The Tennessean*.

- O'More School 'Creating Better Environments.' Nashville, TN: *The Tennessean*.
- 1973 Dickerson, T.C. *Bibliography of Afro-American Artists*.  
*Who's Who in America*.
- 1972 Hieronymus, Clara. Nashville's National Treasure. Nashville, TN: *The Tennessean*.
- 1971 Hazard, Jim. Works of David Driskell Show Powerful Style in UTC Exhibit.  
Chattanooga, TN: *Chattanooga News-Free Press*.
- 1971 Ozmer, Marianne. Symbolism is Dominant in Fisk Artist's Show. Chattanooga,  
TN: *The Chattanooga Times*.
- 1970 Atkinson, Edward. Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art.  
*The Serif*.
- 1967 *Prints by American Negroes*. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Press.
- 1966 *The Negro in American Art*, Exh. cat. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Press.
- 1963-70 *Who's Who in the Southeast*. 1960  
Dover, Cedric. *American Negro Art*.
- 1959-80 *Who's Who in American Art*.
- (undated) Lewis, Samella. *The Black Artist Speaks*.

### **Selected Books and Exhibition Catalogues Authored**

- 2001 Driskell, David C. *The Other Side of Color: African American Art in the Collection of Camille O. and William H. Cosby, Jr.* New York: Pomegranate.
- 1995 *African American Visual Aesthetics & Postmodernism*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Press.
- 1989 *Introspectives: Contemporary Art by Americans and Brazilians of African Descent*. Claremont, California: California Afro-American Museum Association.  
*Contemporary Visual Expressions: The Art of Sam Gilliam, Martha Jackson-*
- 1985 Jarvis, Keith Morrison, William T. Williams. Washington, DC: *Smithsonian Institution Press*.  
*Harlem Renaissance Art of Black America*. New York: Harry N. Abrams.  
*Hidden Heritage: Afro-American Art*. New York: Art Museum Association.
- 1976 *Two Centuries of Black American Art: 1750-1950*. New York: Alfred Knopf.
- 1975 *Amistad II, Afro-American Art*. Cleveland, Ohio: United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.  
Atkinson, Edward and David Driskell. *Black Dimensions in Contemporary*



- American Art*. New York: New American Library.
- Driskell, David C. *Eight Young Printmakers*. Nashville: Fisk University.
- 1958 *Klee, Kandinsky and Other Modern Masters from the Guggenheim Museum*.  
Exh. cat. Talledega, AL: Talledega College.

### **The African and Afro-American Series**

- 1989 Driskell, D.C. *Mary B. Brady and the Harmon Foundation*. Exh. cat. Newark, NJ:  
Newark Museum. *William T. Williams*. Exh. cat. Winston-Salem, NC:  
Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.
- 1981 *Vincent Smith*. Exh. cat. Queens, NY: Queens College Art Gallery.
- 1976 *Claude Clark*. Exh. cat. Oakland, CA: Grand Oaks Gallery.  
*The Afro-American Collection*. Exh. cat. Nashville, TN: Fisk University.
- 1974 *Keith Morrison*.
- 1973 *The Rites of Color and Form*. Exh. cat. Nashville, TN: Fisk University.  
*Peter Clarke: South African Artist-Poet*.
- 1972 *Claude Clark*.
- 1971 *Palmer Hayden*. Exh. cat. Nashville, TN: Fisk University.  
*William Artist and Ellis Wilson*. Exh. cat. Nashville, TN: Fisk University.  
*Alma Thomas*.  
*Aaron Douglas*.  
*William Artist and Ellis Wilson*.
- 1970 *Palmer Hayden*.  
*The Fisk University African Collection*.
- 1969 *Three Afro-Americans*.
- 1968 *Sam Middleton and Richard Hunt*.  
*Elton Fax, Drawing from Africa*.  
*Jacob Lawrence: The Toussaint L'Ouverture Series*.  
*Contemporary Trends in African Art*.
- 1967 *John Rhoden and Walter Williams*.

### **Articles and Essays**

- 1992 Driskell, David C. "Artist, Scholar David Driskell Crusades for Cultural  
Understanding," *Detroit Free Press*, Sunday, July 26.
- 1991 "Denying Credit, An Incomplete Arts Curriculum," *New Art Examiner*

(February).

- 1982 "Jacob Lawrence, The Toussaint L'Ouverture Series," *United Church*, February.  
*Myth and Ritual in Afro-American Art*. Exh. cat. New York: Studio Museum in Harlem.
- "Walter Williams, Creator of The Constant Vision," *An Ocean Apart: American Artists Abroad*. New York: Studio Museum in Harlem.
- "Black Artist and Craftsman," *Portland Review of the Arts*, Spring.
- 1981 "Black Women Artists, An Introduction," *Forever Free*. Springfield, IL: Illinois State University.
- 1980 "The Legacy of Afro-American Art," *New Art Examiner* (June).
- 1978 "Bibliography of Afro-American Artists," *American Quarterly* (December).
- 1976 "Black American Artists, 1750-1950," *Smithsonian* (September).
- 1970 Atkinson, Edward and David Driskell, "Black Dimensions in Contemporary Art," *New American Library*.

### **Selected Lectures, Residencies, and Visiting Artist Invitations**

Visiting Artist, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, ME, 2004, 1976  
Resident Artist, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, ME, 1978  
Visiting Professor of Art, Bates College, Lewistown, ME, 1973  
Visiting Professor of Art, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, 1973  
Acting Chairman and Director of the Gallery of Art, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1963-64, 1965-66

### **Public Collections**

Arkansas Fine Arts Center, Little Rock, AK Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD  
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL Bowdoin College Museum of Art,  
Brunswick, ME Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME David C. Driskell Center,  
University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
Experimental Printmaking Institute, Lafayette College, Easton, PA  
Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME  
Fisk University Galleries, Nashville, TN  
Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC  
Greenville County Museum of Art, SC  
Hampton University, Hampton, VA

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Howard University Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Library of Congress, Washington, DC  
Museum of Art, Bates College, Lewistown, ME  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME  
Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, MO  
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
University Museums, University of Delaware, Newark, DE  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA  
West Virginia University Art Museum, Morgantown, WV

### **Academic Positions**

Professor of Art, University of Maryland, College Park, 1977-98, Emeritus 1998  
Professor and Chairman, Department of Art, University of Maryland, College Park,  
1978- 83  
Professor of Art and Chairman, Dept. of Art, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee,  
1966-77  
Associate Professor of Art, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 1962-66  
Assistant Professor of Art, Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, 1955-62  
Doctor of Fine Arts Colby College, 2000 Maine College of Art, 1996  
CCNY, Baruch College, 1994 Bowdoin College, 1989  
SUNY College at Old Westbury, 1989 Tougaloo College, 1977  
Howard University, 2010  
Doctor of Humane Letters University of Delaware, 2011 Fisk University, 1997  
Talladega College, 1993  
Rust College, 1991  
Daniel Payne College, 1977

**The David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the African Diaspora** was founded upon Driskell's retirement in 1998 from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. The Driskell Center will explore and celebrate the rich influences and traditions of African

and African American society and culture as part of a university known for its strong commitment to multiculturalism and diversity. The Driskell Center will be a preeminent venue for African Diasporic Studies and a nexus of study for the College of Arts and Humanities, the university, the region and the nation.