



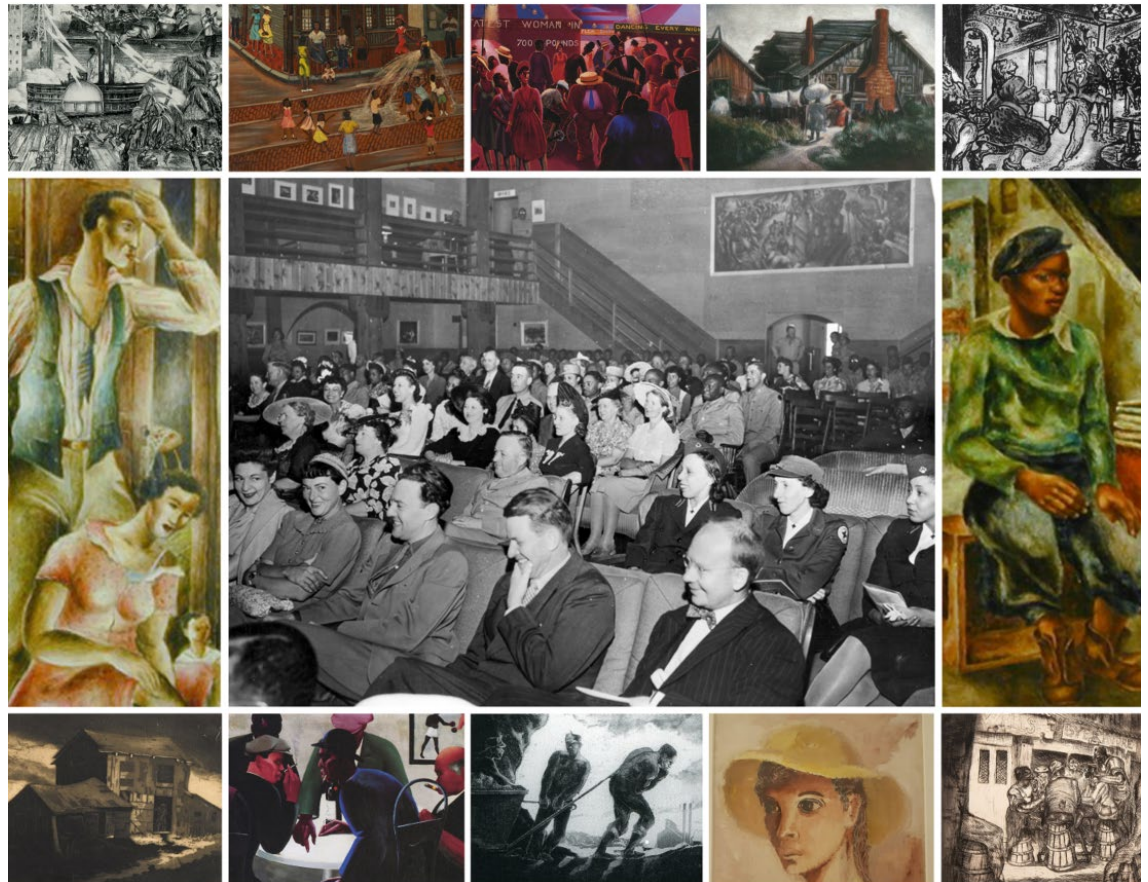
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A History and Analysis of the WPA Exhibit of Black Art at the Fort Huachuca Mountain View Officers' Club, 1943–1946

Kayley R. Schacht, Deidre C. Gonçalves, Aaron R. Schmidt,
and Adam D. Smith

June 2023



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Final Technical Report

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Experience Exhibit Plan.”

Abstract

The 1943 art exhibition at the Mountain View Officers' Club (MVOC), Fort Huachuca, Arizona should be considered one of the most significant events in the intersection of American art, military history, and segregation. Organizers of the event, entitled *Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists*, anticipated it would boost soldiers' morale because Fort Huachuca was a predominately Black duty station during WWII. This report provides a brief history of Black art in the early 20th century, biographies of the artists showcased, and provides information (where known) about repositories that have originals or reproductions of the art today.

The following is recommended: the General Services Administration (GSA) investigate the ownership of the pieces described in this report and if they are found to have been created under one of the New Deal art programs to add them to their inventory, further investigation be performed on the provenance and ownership of Lew Davis's *The Negro in America's Wars* mural, for the rehabilitation of the MVOC that the consulting parties agree upon the scope of the reproduction of the art, and request archival full reproductions of the pieces of art found in the collection of the Howard University Gallery of Art.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, under Project Number 473343, MIPR 11746711, “Huachuca African American WWII Experience Exhibit Plan.” The technical monitor was Stanislava Romih, Cultural Resources Manager.

The work was performed by the Training Lands and Heritage Branch of the Operational Science and Engineering Division of the Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC–CERL). At the time of publication, Ms. Angela Rhodes was branch chief, Dr. George Calfas was division chief, and Mr. Jim Allen was the technical director for Environmental Quality and Installations. The deputy director of ERDC-CERL was Ms. Michelle Hanson, and the director was Dr. Andrew Nelson.

COL Christian Patterson was commander of ERDC, and Dr. David W. Pittman was the director.

1 Introduction

As of Fiscal Year 2023, plans are underway to rehabilitate the former Mountain View Officers' Club (MVOC) for military reuse at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Part of the anticipated updates include restoring the MVOC's interior for both military use and exhibit space and placing reproductions of art that were once displayed there during WWII. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, from their African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, granted The Dunbar Coalition, based in Tucson, Arizona, funding for MVOC exhibit research which in turn gifted those funds to the Army in 2021 where it was then transferred to the US Army Engineer Research Development Center's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). This technical report focuses on the history of the 1943 art exhibit, with a special emphasis on the artists who participated in it and recommendations for the process in having the art replicated for display in the MVOC.

During WWII, Fort Huachuca was the largest training facility for Black soldiers in the United States, and the MVOC was the club for the post's Black officers.¹ In 1943, a permanent exhibit was set up inside the MVOC featuring 86 pieces of art created primarily by Black artists from around the country.² The exhibit, entitled *Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists*, was significant for assembling the works of some of the Work Projects Administration's (WPA) most prominent Black artists into one venue. In addition, the exhibit represented an important example of the WPA promoting a Black art event outside the usual urban, cosmopolitan context.³ The exhibit owed much of its success to Lew Davis, an Arizona WPA art director and Army sergeant who made important contributions to Fort Huachuca through his mural art and screen printing workshop.

¹ Smith, A. D., S. I. Ensore, and S. L. Hunter. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club, Old Post Reevaluation, Fort Huachuca, Arizona*. FH-12-5, ERDC/CERL SR-12-5. Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL. <http://hdl.handle.net/11681/20206>.

² Although the event was advertised as featuring 37 artists, only 36 are enumerated in the dedication pamphlet. Fort Huachuca Historical Museum. 1943. "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists, Officers Mountain View Club, Fort Huachuca, Arizona," *Exhibition Pamphlet*, May 16, 1943.

³ Calo, M. A. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection: African Americans and the New Deal Federal Art Projects," *Archives of American Art Journal* 55 (2): 80–91. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26566608>.

In this report, the terms “Black” and “White” are capitalized when used in a racial, ethnic, or cultural sense. Therefore, these terms are capitalized when used as a modifier in instances such as “Black Americans,” “White artist,” or “Black history.” This decision is in accord with a recent Chicago Manual of Style (CMoS) guideline, which ERDC-CERL utilizes for its technical reports, that recommends capitalizing both terms for editorial consistency.⁴

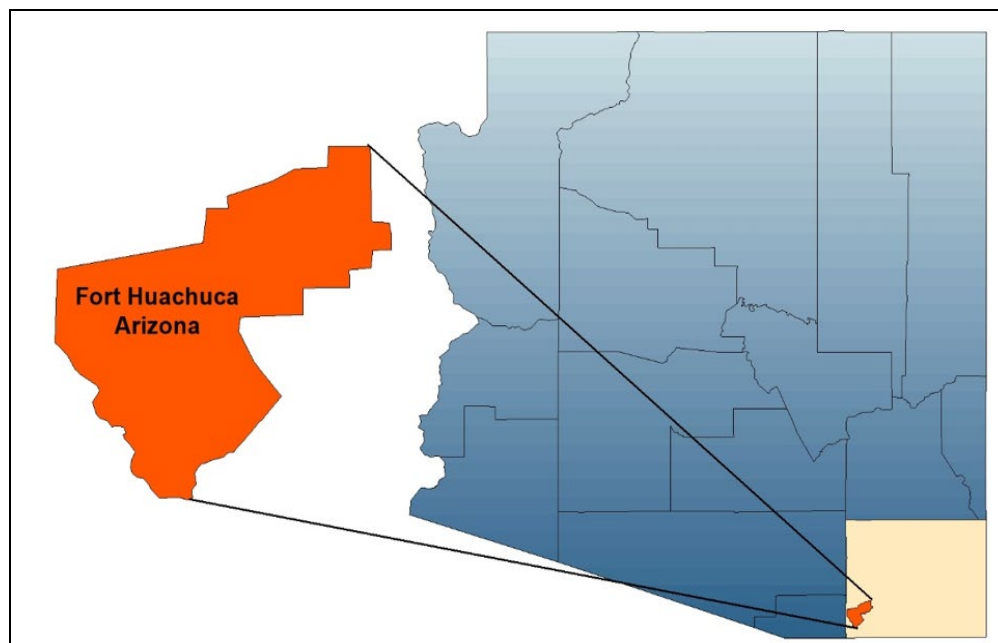
1.1 Background

Fort Huachuca is located on the eastern slope of the Huachuca Mountains north and east of Sierra Vista, Arizona (Figure 1). The historic heart of the Cantonment for the fort is the Fort Huachuca Historic District (commonly called the Old Post), which overlooks the San Pedro River valley. The Army established Camp Huachuca in 1877; it did not become a permanent Army post until 1882. Most of the buildings within the Old Post area date to the late 1880s. Units within the Ninth Cavalry and the 24th Infantry, both Black divisions, were intermittently stationed in the Old Post between 1892 and 1912. Both divisions would be absorbed into larger Black units during WWII.⁵ The post expanded to accommodate more troops in the 1910s, prior to WWI. From 1913 to 1931, the Tenth Cavalry Black “Buffalo Soldiers” were stationed at Fort Huachuca. The Army changed the post from a cavalry to an infantry orientation in 1931, and the Black 25th Infantry Regiment took the place of the Tenth Cavalry in 1933.

⁴ CMoS (Chicago Manual of Style). 2020. “Black and White: A Matter of Capitalization.” *CMoS Shop Talk*, June 22, 2020. <https://cmosshoptalk.com/2020/06/22/black-and-white-a-matter-of-capitalization/>.

⁵ Smith, Cornelius C., Jr. 1981. *Fort Huachuca: the Story of a Frontier Post*. Washington, DC: Department of the Army. 197–198. <https://archive.org/details/forthuachucathes00wash/page/n1/mode/2up>.

Figure 1. Location of Fort Huachuca. (Image by US Army Engineer Research and Development Center-Construction Engineering Research Laboratory [ERDC-CERL], 2022. Public domain.)



In 1941 and 1942, the historic international border outpost underwent a massive development program designed to house and support the requirements of a full strength combat division. A full-size city was constructed in that time, complete with housing, logistical, utility, administration, education, recreation, and religious facilities.⁶ In 1942, the 25th Infantry was incorporated into the 93rd Infantry Division. Fort Huachuca was home to the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions, from 1942 to 1945.⁷ The 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions were both composed of Black troops, making Fort Huachuca the largest training facility for Black soldiers during WWII.

The MVOC at Fort Huachuca has been utilized for many different functions since its construction in 1942. It was first used as an officers' club for the 93rd and then the 92nd Divisions' Black officers. Part of the installation's WWII cantonment, the MVOC provided an off duty social outlet for the member officers. Primarily a facility for dining and parties, the club also hosted organized entertainment activities and cultural events.⁸

⁶ Smith et. al. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club, Old Post Reevaluation, Fort Huachuca, Arizona*, 8.

⁷ Smith et. al. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club, Old Post Reevaluation, Fort Huachuca, Arizona*, 1.

⁸ Smith et. al. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club, Old Post Reevaluation, Fort Huachuca, Arizona*, 8.

In 1943, Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, Post Commander of Fort Huachuca, invited celebrated Arizona artist Lew Davis to paint two murals for the Lakeside Officers' Club, the installation's White officers' club, a social and event venue for the post's White officers.⁹ Struck by the low morale he noticed among the Black troops during his visit, Davis began using art as a tool to empower the Black soldiers stationed at Fort Huachuca.¹⁰ To accomplish this goal, he set up a silkscreen studio to create posters featuring Black soldiers and organized a workshop to teach interested parties about mural painting.¹¹ In addition to the silkscreen poster studio and mural painting workshop, Davis was also instrumental in arranging the *Exhibition of the Works of 37 Negro Artists* in May 1943.¹² Davis was a private citizen during much of his work at Fort Huachuca, only being inducted into the Army and promoted to sergeant in early 1944.¹³ It is not known who exactly conceived the idea for an art exhibit at the MVOC; however, because Davis had a record of promoting art to boost morale, he may have initiated the exhibit or invested in its early stages.¹⁴ The exhibit showcased works from prominent Black artists from across the country, along with a handful of White artists whose works reflected the Black experience in America. After its dedication on 16 May 1943, the exhibit toured the two service clubs at Fort Huachuca before being permanently arranged in the MVOC. The exhibit remained there until around 1946, when the art was redistributed. Based on correspondence found at the National Archives and Records Administration—College Park, Maryland (NARA—College Park), the works were most likely bestowed to Howard University at that time.¹⁵

1.2 Objective

This report is one of two deliverables for Fort Huachuca's *African American WWII Experience Exhibit Plan—FH 2022-02*. As part of *Exhibit*

⁹ Smith et. al. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club, Old Post Reevaluation, Fort Huachuca, Arizona*, 71.

¹⁰ Robbins, C. C. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*. Scottsdale, AZ: Scottsdale Cultural Council. 4–5, 29.

¹¹ Robbins. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, 29.

¹² Buffalo, The. 1943. "Art Exhibit at Mountainview Club Sunday," *The Buffalo*, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, May 15, 1943, 9. <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/37940>.

¹³ Apache Sentinel. 1944. "'Negro Soldier' Mural to be Unveiled at Mt. View." *The Apache Sentinel*, August 18, 1944. <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32170>.

¹⁴ Robbins. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars"*, 29.

¹⁵ Marcus H. Ray to Commanding Officer, Fort Huachuca, March 16, 1946, RG 107: Box 208, Entry 188: Office of Assistant Secretary of War Civilian Aide to the Secretary, 1940–47, Fort Huachuca, NARA College Park.

Plan–FH 2022-02, this document is *Report A*, and a second document, *Report B*, provides recommendations for interpretive exhibit plans within the MVOC and the surrounding landscape.

The purpose of this document—*Report A*—is to contextualize the 1943 exhibit and its participants. The event was not only significant to the installation, but for Black art of the modern era. This report provides a brief history of early 20th century Black art and the government-sponsored programs that empowered it, an overview of the exhibit dedication, and brief bibliographies of the artists whose work was selected for the show. Additionally, an appendix itemizes the 86 works of art that were on display and provides information (where known) about repositories that have originals or reproductions of the art today.

Records from NARA–College Park suggest that the entire collection from the 1943 exhibition went to Howard University in 1946; however, the status of some of the pieces is unknown. Most of the collection falls under two medium groupings: *Paintings* or *Prints and Drawings*. Because artists who created prints made several copies of their work, many copies ended up in collections outside of Howard. In the appendix table (Appendix A), only one repository is listed per work in the *Prints and Drawings* category; however, pieces of this medium are often found in multiple repositories. Paintings, on the other hand, are usually singular works, so a piece in this medium will not be found in multiple collections. Paintings that are not cataloged with Howard may be in private collections.

Researchers located 56 of the 86 pieces shown at the exhibition. At minimum, 23 of the works are in Howard University’s collections, and at least 32 pieces are now housed in other repositories. One piece is part of a private collection and the location of the remaining 30 pieces is unknown. Details regarding the locations of the art can be found in Appendix A.

1.3 Approach

An early phase of the project involved reviewing primary sources related to the art. These sources came from the Fort Huachuca Historical Museum, NARA–College Park, and the Main Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. Sources also came from a variety of online research tools, such as census records, draft cards, and other public records from Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org, and newspaper articles from

Newspapers.com. These sources were indispensable in abstracting biographical sketches of lesser-known artists who participated in Fort Huachuca's art exhibit. Primary sources that were particularly useful included Alain Locke's 1940 anthology, *The Negro in Art*, and James Porter's 1943 volume, *Modern Negro Art*.¹⁶ The research team also used secondary sources germane to the history of Black art and its prominent figures in the early 20th century. Items reviewed included Sharon F. Patton's 1998 comprehensive book, *African-American Art*, and Earnestine Jenkin's new title (2021), *Black Artists in America: From the Great Depression to Civil Rights*.¹⁷ Betsy Fahlman's book, *New Deal Art in Arizona*, and Carolyn C. Robbins' book, *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, provided valuable information about Lew Davis and his involvement in Fort Huachuca's artistic enterprises.¹⁸ An important source that was consulted for locating some of the exhibit artwork is a reference book entitled *WPA Artwork in Non-Federal Repositories, 2nd Edition* (1999) and the General Services Administration (GSA) online fine arts catalog.¹⁹

The ERDC–CERL research team included Kayley R. Schacht (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Intern), Bachelor of Arts in History and Pre-Health Studies; Deidre C. Gonçalves (Intern, pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Art History); Aaron R. Schmidt, Master of Arts in Public History, with two years of experience in history; and Adam D. Smith, Master of Architecture, who meets the Secretary of Interior Standards and has 25 years of experience in project management and military architectural history. Dr. Betsy Fahlman, professor of Art History at Arizona State University and Charles Hancock, Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers, assisted in locating some of the surviving artworks.

¹⁶ Locke, A. L. 1940. *The Negro in Art: A Pictorial Record of the Negro Artist and of the Negro Theme in Art*. Washington, DC: Associated in Negro Folk Education; Porter, J. A. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*. New York, NY: Dryden Press.

¹⁷ Patton, Sharon F. 1998. *African-American Art*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=2598QQgoRP8C&lpg=PA147&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>; Jenkins, E. L. 2021. *Black Artists in America: From the Great Depression to Civil Rights*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹⁸ Fahlman, B. 2009. *New Deal Art in Arizona*. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press, 2009; Robbins. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars."*

¹⁹ Weber, A., and K. Erickson. 1999. *WPA Artwork in Non-Federal Repositories*, 2nd ed. Washington, DC: GSA; "Fine Arts." GSA fine arts online catalog. <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts>.

2 Black Art in the Early 20th Century

Art necessarily reflects the historical and social context in which an artist and their cohort matures. Therefore, an understanding of early 20th century art, particularly Black art, must be related in terms of the historical trends that influenced its development and circulation. This brief account, encompassing the first few decades of the 20th century, will highlight milestones and key figures in Black art in the years preceding the 1943 art exhibition at Fort Huachuca. Although some artists and noteworthy events may not be addressed due to the limited scope of this account, it provides adequate background to demonstrate that the organization of a Black art exhibit at Fort Huachuca had some precedent in the Harmon Society shows of the 1920s and 1930s, the *Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro* in Chicago (1940), and the *American Negro Art, 19th and 20th Centuries* exhibition in New York City (1941–1942); however, no other Black art exhibition had occurred on a military installation at that time. For nearly two decades before the Fort Huachuca exhibit, Black artists were empowered by the momentum of the New Negro Movement, supported in vibrant cultural hubs like Harlem, New York, and Bronzeville, a South Side neighborhood of Chicago, and commissioned through the WPA's Federal Art Project (FAP), a government-sponsored program for unemployed artists during the Great Depression.²⁰ Along the way, Black artists attained a greater measure of recognition from all audiences for their contributions to the contemporary art scene.

2.1 Early public exposure: Black art on display, 1900–1920

Black individuals have produced visual art in North America for centuries; though for much of that time, racist social and economic institutions barred any significant recognition for their works. By the 18th and 19th centuries, a few Black artists began to receive widespread acclamation for their talents. One of the earliest Black Americans to obtain a measure of recognition, Joshua Johnson, was a respected portrait artist in Baltimore from the 1760s until the 1820s.²¹ Throughout the 19th century, a growing number of Black artists received a fair amount of attention for their compositions. Several of these artists went to Europe or New England for formal training. One of the

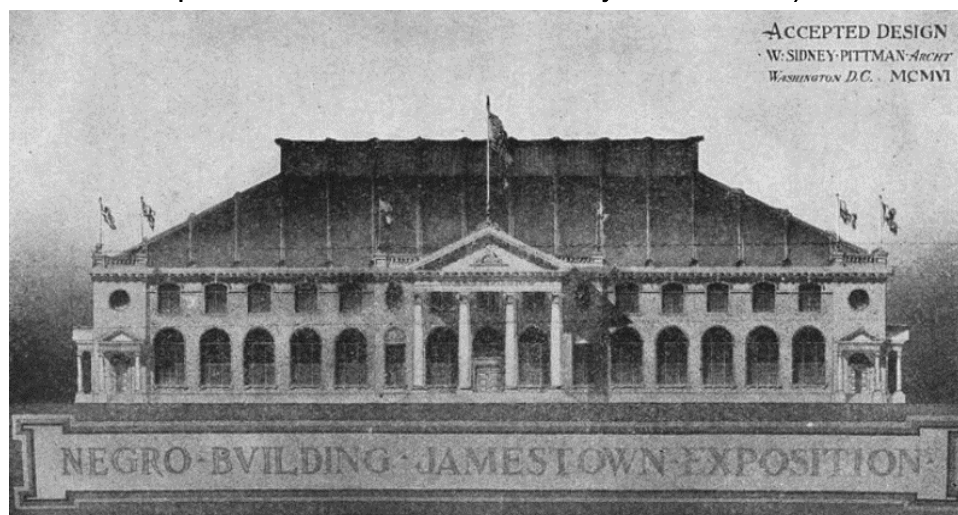
²⁰ Mavigliano, G., and Lawson, R. 1990. *The Federal Art Project in Illinois, 1935–1943*. Carbondale IL: Southern Illinois University Press, xx–xxi.

²¹ Locke. 1940. *The Negro In Art: A Pictorial Record of the Negro Artist and of the Negro Theme in Art*, 9.

best known is Henry Tanner, a painter who began his career in the United States and later earned international recognition when he moved to Paris.²² Still, according to respected Black philosopher and aesthete Alain Locke, Black artists had yet to find their unique voice, and “after the zeals of Abolitionism had flickered out, the goals of the few aspiring Negro artists became conventionality and the safely respectable.”²³

By the turn of the 20th century, an increasing number of Black artists were getting public attention, thanks in part to exhibitions at various state fairs. Some of the most noteworthy were the Jamestown, Virginia, Charleston, South Carolina, and St. Louis, Missouri, exhibitions (Figure 2). While these venues provided a communal space to display artwork, they had their shortcomings. For example, many Black artists were not offered a satisfactory amount of space to exhibit their works. Additionally, most exhibitions were “controlled by promotional exigencies,” so art likely needed to satisfy predetermined thematic criteria.²⁴ Still, these exhibitions represented a trend toward increased publicity and recognition for the works of Black artists.

Figure 2. Drawing of the “Negro Building” at the 1907 Jamestown Exposition. (Image reproduced from New York Public Library. Public domain.)²⁵



²² Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. “Henry Ossawa Tanner.” Art + Artists. <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/henry-ossawa-tanner-4742>.

²³ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art: A Pictorial Record of the Negro Artist and of the Negro Theme in Art*, 9.

²⁴ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 86.

²⁵ “Negro building, Jamestown Exhibition,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division, New York Public Library Digital Collections, accessed December 7, 2022. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org>.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the United States was seized by a spirit of industrialization and urban growth. The changes that occurred during this period were especially evident in the refinement of large-scale manufacturing and the mass human migration. Among such developments, American art also began to evolve—albeit at a more conservative pace than in Europe. At this time, the transition from Euro-centric styles (such as Impressionism) to a modern American vernacular had a decidedly regional focus, with most activity occurring on the East Coast.²⁶ There, White artists explored themes related to urbanism and progress, often highlighting the stark realities of city life and labor in the industrial era. Many artists began to embrace abstract techniques in their drawings, paintings, and photography, which reflected the apparent malleability of the age. While the development of modern art was well-publicized in Europe, the first large-scale American event that brought the movement to the forefront was New York City's *International Exhibition of Modern Art* in 1913.²⁷

Simultaneously, Black art began to reflect changing attitudes and tastes regarding what drawings, paintings, sculptures, and photography could represent. This process was accelerated by increasing interest for African-based art among White Americans. Although many White Americans had a limited conception of African-based art, some Black Americans took advantage of this interest to promote a unique “Negro art idiom.”²⁸ According to art historian Sharon Patton, “visual artists took advantage of the interest in black culture to broaden the parameters of modern art, its aesthetics and imagery, to accommodate an African American artistic vernacular.”²⁹ Creativity in this respect was greatly influenced by strengthened collaboration between Black artists in urban centers of the North, a phenomenon that accelerated after WWI.

2.2 The New Negro Movement, Harlem, and Alain Locke

In the early 20th century, the Great Migration fostered the development of Black art communities into urban creative hearths. The term Great Migration describes the mass movement of Black Americans from the rural South to the cities of the North, West, and Midwest, usually to escape racial

²⁶ Patton. 1998. *African-American Art*, 107–108.

²⁷ Ibid., 108–109.

²⁸ Patton. 1998. *African-American Art*, 112.

²⁹ Ibid., 112.

violence and find better employment opportunities.³⁰ This movement is usually split into two separate events, the First Great Migration (1910–1940) and the Second Great Migration (1945–1970). During the First Great Migration, nearly two million Black Americans started new lives in New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, and similar cities.³¹

Following WWI, many Black soldiers believed that their efforts to defend democracy in Europe would be appreciated at home and ultimately avail to them greater respect and civil rights in the United States. However, many Black soldiers found that the opposite was true as racial discrimination intensified in the 1920s. Disillusioned by the state of civil rights in the United States, many Black Americans began to abandon the “accommodationist” philosophy championed by Booker T. Washington. This viewpoint maintained that the fight for social and political equality would be nearly impossible to ameliorate and, instead, Black Americans should focus on improving their economic status.³² In contrast, during the 1920s, many Black Americans prioritized a sense of pride in their cultural identity which, at times, took on an assertive tone. This firm, self-confident outlook concerning the contributions of Black Americans in the creative and political realms of society sparked the New Negro Movement in the mid-1920s.³³ Reflecting on the connection between the First Great Migration and the New Negro Movement,³⁴ anthropologist Cedric Dover stated in 1960,

This internal migration, the most spectacular in history, brought the personalities, lives, loves, heroes, troubles and successes of Negroes to artistic attention, both white and coloured, in ways and urgencies previously unknown. There could have been no Negro Renaissance without it—a Renaissance so completely

³⁰ Jenkins. 2021. *Black Artists in America: From the Great Depression to Civil Rights*, 16–17.

³¹ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). 2021. “The Great Migration: 1910–1970.” African American Heritage. <https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration>.

³² Duke. n.d. “Do You Know About Booker T. Washington?” Duke Office for Institutional Equity. <https://oie.duke.edu/do-you-know-about-booker-t-washington>.

³³ Library of Congress. n.d. “NAACP: A Century in the Fight for Freedom, The New Negro Movement.” Exhibitions. <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/naACP/the-new-negro-movement.html>.

³⁴ Although the word “Negro” is a negative term today, the authors have found no modern criticism for the term “New Negro Movement,” probably because it was a historical phrase coined in the 1920s, and the movement with which it is associated is usually discussed in positive terms.

unique in American history . . . that it deserves the name.³⁵

The epicenter of the New Negro Movement was in Harlem, New York City, New York, where it took on the moniker “Negro Renaissance,” or Harlem Renaissance. New York City, like many cities in the North, saw a substantial increase in its Black population during the First Great Migration (Figure 3). “A white residential area of New York in 1900 which a few Negro families had penetrated by 1906,” the Harlem neighborhood, according to Dover, “became the ‘black metropolis’ of the world by 1920.”³⁶ Beginning at the turn of the century, Harlem became home to Black Americans from the Northern and Southern United States, as well as immigrants from the Caribbean. By the 1920s, the neighborhood fostered social and professional connections that enriched politics, music, and art (Figure 4). During the New Negro Movement, the neighborhood became home to several celebrated individuals, including Langston Hughes (author of *The Weary Blues*, *Not Without Laughter*, and *Montage of a Dream Deferred*) and artist Aaron Douglas (known for *Into Bondage* and illustrations for *God’s Trombones*).³⁷ If Harlem was the epicenter of the New Negro Movement, Alain Locke was perhaps the chief advocate and promoter of its burgeoning art scene.

³⁵ Dover, C. 1960. *American Negro Art*. Chatham, England: W. & J. Mackay & Co. Ltd., 36.

³⁶ Dover. 1960. *American Negro Art*, 36.

³⁷ Harlem Hospital Center. n.d. “Harlem and New York City.” Residency Programs: General Information. <https://www.cumc.columbia.edu/harlem-hospital/general-information/harlem-and-new-york-city>; Anderson, N. 2016. “Aaron Douglas.” *National Gallery of Art*, September 29, 2016. <https://www.nga.gov/collection/artist-info.38654.html>; Poets.org. n.d. “Langston Hughes: 1901–1967.” Poets. <https://poets.org/poet/langston-hughes>.

Figure 3. A Harlem street, 1934. (Image reproduced from New York Public Library. Public domain.)³⁸



Figure 4. A jazz event in Harlem's Cotton Club, 1930. (Image reproduced from New York Public Library. Public domain.)³⁹



³⁸ "Seventh Avenue, looking north from West 125th Street, in Harlem, New York City, 1934," Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, New York Public Library Digital Collections, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/45aff4c0-c630-0130-9e95-58d385a7bbd0>.

³⁹ "Cab Calloway and his Orchestra, chorus girls in the background," Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, New York Public Library Digital Collections, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>.

Alain Locke was an influential aesthete and philosopher whose analysis of Black art, poetry, plays, and music set the tone for the New Negro Movement in Harlem and beyond (Figure 5). Born in Philadelphia in 1885, Locke had a distinguished early academic career. In 1912, he became an assistant professor of English at Harvard, earning his doctorate there in 1918. He also studied in Europe at schools such as Oxford and the University of Berlin. Over the course of his studies and his career, Locke became particularly attracted to theories of value associated with culture and aesthetics. He took an interest in art and the latest deliberations surrounding its purpose and efficacy, particularly in Black communities. In contrast to W.E.B. Du Bois, a prominent intellectual who believed Black artists should intentionally create works that advance the cause of social progress, Locke contended that this approach would amount to little more than propaganda. Instead, Locke reasoned that an artist should be free to express “his own individuality, and in doing that to communicate something of universal human appeal.”⁴⁰ Locke likely would not have downplayed the legitimacy or importance of art that advanced a social cause, but that creating art just for the sake of conveying a message—especially if the motivation for doing so came from a source outside the artist themselves—amounts to work that is hollow and inauthentic.

Figure 5. Alain Locke, c. 1910. (Image reproduced from New York Public Library. Public domain.)⁴¹



⁴⁰ Stanford University. 2022. “Alain LeRoy Locke,” [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).

⁴¹ “Alain Locke,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, [New York Public Library Digital Collections](#), accessed December 7, 2022.

In 1925, Locke's interest in aesthetic appraisal and cultural studies culminated in the publication of *The New Negro: An Interpretation*, an anthology of Black literature and art. It is believed that this book was among the earliest to catalogue the promising creative endeavors associated with the New Negro Movement, including its artistic trends.⁴² For Locke, the New Negro Movement satisfactorily addressed a major predicament in the field of Black art. Until the 1920s, few Black artists had achieved a culturally accepted, widespread measure of success. Many aspiring artists conventionally looked to Henry O. Tanner, a 19th and early 20th century Black painter who dedicated most of his time in Europe perfecting a French impressionistic technique.⁴³ While American artists had traditionally aspired to study in Paris, by the opening decades of the 20th century, it became increasingly passé to imitate European trends, especially those from Paris. Locke argued that, aside from Tanner, Black artists had few Black authorities to look up to, and those who continued imitating Tanner would unavoidably be imitating an outmoded style. For Locke, the New Negro Movement provided an answer to this problem, generating a wave of original thought and a "crusade of folk expression in all the arts."⁴⁴ An outpouring of creativity during the 1920s and 1930s was not unique to Harlem, but manifested in other urban centers across the country, notably Chicago and Philadelphia (see sections 2.7 and 2.8).⁴⁵

2.3 The rise of federally sponsored art

2.3.1 Creation of the Works Progress Administration (WPA, 1935–1939)

Much of the prolific output that occurred during the 1930s and into the 1940s was made possible through the sponsorship of Depression-era programs like the WPA. In Locke's estimation,

⁴² Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 98.

⁴³ Jenkins. 2021. *Black Artists in America: From the Great Depression to Civil Rights*, 15–16.

⁴⁴ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 9.

⁴⁵ Smithsonian Institute. n.d. "The Power of Poetry: The New Negro Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement," The National Museum of African American History and Culture. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/power-poetry-new-negro-renaissance-black-arts-movement>.

The work of the Negro artist was just beginning to gather momentum of its own in terms of wider access to professional galleries and exhibitions, when the onset of the depression threatened all these gains. All, indeed, would have been disastrously nipped in the bud but for the timely intervention of the Federal Art Projects.⁴⁶

The WPA was founded on 6 May 1935, by President Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 7034. It became the latest of a series of "alphabet agencies" created to curb the economic crisis of the Great Depression.⁴⁷ Funding for the WPA and several other assistance programs came from the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. These programs constituted the Second New Deal, the largest work relief project in American history.⁴⁸

A variety of aid programs on the state and federal level preceded the WPA. Early responses to the economic crash came directly from the states. About half of the states had emergency relief administrations organized by 1932, but the lack of a comprehensive federal aid program rendered state action ineffective.⁴⁹ Unemployment reached its peak in 1933, with a quarter of the American workforce being jobless. For Black Americans, unemployment rates skyrocketed to 50 percent. Immediately following his election, President Roosevelt enacted relief efforts focused on rural needs and bank stabilization. Cash relief was also offered for eligible parties through the 1933 Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The same year, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) became the first federal work relief program. Both programs offered unprecedented relief without statutory racial discrimination, allowing many Black Americans access to federal aid for the first time.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 10.

⁴⁷ "Alphabet agencies" is a term describing the numerous acronym-based government programs created during the Great Depression. Some "alphabet agencies" include the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). F.D.R. Presidential Library and Museum. n.d. "Great Depression Facts." Biographies and Features. <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/great-depression-facts>.

⁴⁸ PBS. n.d. "The Works Progress Administration." American Experience. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americaneexperience/features/surviving-the-dust-bowl-works-progress-administration-wpa/>; Leuchtenburg, W. E. 1963. *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 125.

⁴⁹ US Federal Works Agency. *Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-43*. HD3881 .A565 1943g. Washington DC: Federal Works Agency. 2, <https://www.loc.gov/item/47032199>.

⁵⁰ Bernstein, I. n.d. "Chapter 5: Americans in Depression and War." *US Department of Labor*. <https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/history/chapter5>.

The Civil Works Administration (CWA), established in late 1933, was the most direct precursor to the WPA. The CWA was created as a very temporary employment program intended to help families through the winter, and ultimately employed over four million Americans in a variety of jobs.⁵¹ Though some CWA projects were critiqued for being pointless, the agency demonstrated that the concept of government-sponsored work relief programs had potential.⁵²

The WPA collaborated with local and state governments with the purpose of moving “from the relief rolls to work on such projects or in private employment the maximum number of persons in the shortest time possible.”⁵³ Most WPA projects were instituted locally based on the population of residents receiving government aid and the social and infrastructural needs of the area. Though projects proposed by local officials had to be approved at the state and presidential level before being enacted, the process enabled communities to address many of their own needs with financial assistance from the federal government.⁵⁴ Local project sponsors were responsible for roughly one-fifth of WPA costs, ultimately providing \$2,837,713,000. The federal government provided \$10,136,743,000.⁵⁵

From 1935 to 1943, the WPA employed over eight and a half million Americans in a wide range of projects. WPA workers participated in a variety of fields, including infrastructure, education, conservation, military mobilization, and fine arts.⁵⁶ Thanks to local lobbying efforts, the WPA and other federal work relief projects were active at Fort Huachuca throughout the 1930s. Laborers renovated existing post buildings, created waterworks infrastructure, and completed various stonework projects.⁵⁷ With such an array of projects, employees were able to put many pre-existing skills to good work and develop new trade capabilities. This was

⁵¹ Thompson, L. 2016a. “Civil Works Administration (CWA) (1933).” *The Living New Deal*. <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/civil-works-administration-cwa-1933/>.

⁵² Mintz, S., and McNeil, S. 2018. “Jobs Programs.” *Digital History*. https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3443.

⁵³ White House, The. 1935. *Creating Machinery for the Works Progress Administration*. EO 7034. <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/208644>.

⁵⁴ Thompson, L. 2016e. “Works Progress Administration (WPA) (1935).” *The Living New Deal*. <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/works-progress-administration-wpa-1935/>.

⁵⁵ *Final Report on the WPA Program*, III.

⁵⁶ Thompson. 2016e. “Works Progress Administration (WPA) (1935).”

⁵⁷ Morrison, D. A. and A. D. Smith. 2021. *Fort Huachuca History of Development: Existing Reports and Contexts*. ERDC/CERL TR-21-2. Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL. 77–78.

certainly true in the realm of the arts, supported by WPA subsection Federal Project No. 1.⁵⁸

Federal Project No. 1, established shortly after the WPA, made employment provisions for artists, musicians, writers, historians, and actors, as well as educational opportunities (Figure 6). Local governments were often unwilling to support the arts at this time, and thus were not required to assist in funding for projects in the realm of creative labor.⁵⁹ FAP was established under Federal Project No. 1 in 1935 for the specific purpose of sponsoring fine arts. The national director of the FAP was Holger Cahill, who later selected the art to be shown at the 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibit.⁶⁰

To underscore the social and cultural value of art, the federal government fully backed creative WPA projects, which came to occupy about five percent of the overall budget.⁶¹ Congress suspended federal funding for Project No. 1 in mid-1939; however, the quality of cultural production during the federal funding period inspired many state and local sponsors to continue financing arts projects.⁶² Thousands of Black and White creators and performers were supported by the WPA through its active period, including most of the artists in the Fort Huachuca art exhibition.

⁵⁸ Thompson, L. 2016b. "Federal Project Number One (Federal One) (1935)," *The Living New Deal*. <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/federal-project-number-one-federal-one-1935-1939/>.

⁵⁹ *Final Report on the WPA Program*, 63.

⁶⁰ Kalfatovic, M. R. 1994. *The New Deal Fine Arts Projects: A Bibliography, 1933–1992*. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., xxx–xxxi; *Art Digest, The*. 1943. Issue 7, August 1943, 15, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Main Library.

⁶¹ Mintz and McNeil. 2018. "Jobs Programs."

⁶² Thompson. 2016b. "Federal Project Number One (Federal One) (1935)."

Figure 6. Students attend a free drawing workshop at the Harlem Art Center, 1938. (Image reproduced from Smithsonian Archives of American Art. Public domain.)⁶³



2.3.2 The Work Projects Administration (WPA, 1939–1943)

By 1939, the height of the New Deal had reached an end. After the Reorganization Act of that year, the WPA operated on a reduced scale and changed its name from the *Works Progress Administration* to the *Work Projects Administration*, retaining the same acronym it had before. The pared-down program remained active for another 4 years, before officially dissolving in June 1943. Executive reorganization was affected to “reduce expenditures, to increase efficiency of operations, to regroup agencies, to reduce the number of agencies by consolidation, and to eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort.”⁶⁴ The WPA was successful in providing mass employment, but conservative businesspeople and elected officials on both ends of the political spectrum contended that its projects

⁶³ David Robbins, “Students in a free art class at the Harlem Art Center, 290 Knox Avenue,” 1938, Federal Art Project, Photographic Division collection, circa 1920–1965, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/items/detail/students-free-art-class-harlem-art-center-290-knox-avenue-12041>.

⁶⁴ Carmody, J. M., W. E. Reynolds, T. H. MacDonald, E. W. Clark, N. Straus, and F. C. Harrington. 1940. *First Annual Report: Federal Works Agency*. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nnc1.cu09221980&view=1up&seq=10>.

were neither cost effective nor efficient.⁶⁵ Despite the scope and scale of the WPA and other New Deal relief agencies, the American economy did not fully recover until it engaged in war-related industry.⁶⁶ Nonetheless, the WPA was a vital program on which a quarter of American families relied and from which nearly all participants benefited during the Great Depression.

2.4 Notable Black art exhibitions in the 1920s–1940s

Before the 1920s, Black artists had few venues in which to exhibit their work (see Section 2.1).⁶⁷ The New Negro Movement and a growing interest in Black art made it possible for Black Americans to begin exhibiting their drawings, paintings, sculptures, and photography at many notable exhibitions beginning in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. The following sections provide examples of such showcases.

2.4.1 The Harmon Exhibitions, 1928–1933

The Harmon Exhibitions were a series of annual juried shows that took place in New York City between 1928–1933 (except 1932). They were made possible through the William E. Harmon Foundation, a philanthropic organization which, as one of its objectives, sought to promote creative excellence from Black Americans in a variety of professions.⁶⁸ The exhibitions themselves were the first to exclusively feature Black works. Significantly, the Harmon Exhibition began touring the United States, which circulated the efforts of Black artists to an even broader audience.⁶⁹ Some of the more notable locations visited by the Harmon Exhibitions included the Denver Art Museum, Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Howard University in Washington, DC.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Leuchtenburg, W. E. n.d. “Franklin D. Roosevelt: Domestic Affairs.” The Miller Center of the University of Virginia. <https://millercenter.org/president/fdroosevelt/domestic-affairs>.

⁶⁶ Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. n.d. “Great Depression Facts.”

⁶⁷ Porter writes, “The artistic regeneration of the Negro began in the second decade of the Twentieth Century. After a long period of intermittent success, Negro genius found a more promising outlook for creative activity in the years following the First World War.” Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 96.

⁶⁸ Patton. 1998. *African-American Art*, 119.

⁶⁹ Kennedy Center-Arts Edge. n.d. “The Harmon Foundation.” Faces of the Harlem Renaissance. https://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/harlem/faces/harmon_foundation.html; Patton. 1998. *African-American Art*, 119.

⁷⁰ LocateArts.org. n.d. “The Harmon.” Exhibitions. <https://locatearts.org/exhibitions/nashville/the-harmon>.

2.4.2 Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro, 1940

The *Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro* took place in Chicago between 4 July and 2 September 1940. This monumental art show was a highlight within an even larger event, the *American Negro Exposition*. The exposition and its art show took place inside the Coliseum, a massive, enclosed venue south of the Chicago Loop.⁷¹ The exposition was organized in response to Chicago's 1933 "Century of Progress" World's Fair, which did not portray Black Americans in a positive light.⁷² In contrast, the 1940 exposition was organized to showcase achievements made by Black Americans in science, art, music, literature, and other fields.⁷³

Several individuals who later participated in Fort Huachuca's 1943 art show submitted work in the *Art of the American Negro* exhibition. Charles White won first prize in the "Black and White" category for his submission *There were no Crops this Year*, William Carter won first prize in the watercolor division for his painting *Study in Gray*, Eldzier Cortor was awarded second place in the oils category for *Sense of Loneliness*, and Sargent Johnson placed third in sculptures for his submission, *Head of Girl*. Other artists at the show who later participated in Fort Huachuca's exhibit include Charles Davis, Allan Crite, Elba Lightfoot, Edward Loper, John Lutz, Charles Sallée, Charles Sebree, Dox Thrash, Earl Walker, and Charles White.⁷⁴

2.4.3 American Negro Art, 19th and 20th Centuries exhibition, 1941–1942

The *American Negro Art, 19th and 20th Centuries*, exhibit was held at New York City's Downtown Gallery from 9 December 1941 until 3 January 1942. The event received support from several well-known politicians, city mayor Fiorello La Guardia, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The exhibit was intended to celebrate the works of living Black artists, encourage other museums to acquire Black art, and raise money for the Black art fund. The *American Negro Art, 19th and 20th Centuries*, exhibit was especially

⁷¹ This building is not extant.

⁷² Grossman, R. 2020. "Flashback: American Negro Exposition set out to Show the Successes of Black America—but the White Establishment had its own Agenda." *Chicago Tribune*, June 12, 2020. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/history/ct-opinion-flashback-american-negro-exposition-20200612-eb4nsmgwqbeizduy6wolfvhpjq-story.html>.

⁷³ Grossman. 2020. "Flashback: American Negro Exposition set out to Show the Successes of Black America—but the White Establishment had its own Agenda."

⁷⁴ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 130–136; American Negro Exhibition. 1940. "Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro." *Yale University Library Digital Collection*. <https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/16394250>.

significant because it was held at a commercial gallery.⁷⁵ Elba Lightfoot and Dox Thrash were among the artists who submitted works for this show and later participated in the Fort Huachuca exhibit.⁷⁶

2.4.4 Other WPA projects and exhibitions with Black artist involvement

Most WPA exhibitions in which Black artists participated came about through the efforts of community art centers and galleries. As of 1938, 58 federally sponsored community art centers existed nationwide with the purpose of local art education and creative exposure.⁷⁷ The activities of majority Black centers in the urban North are most thoroughly documented due to their metropolitan surroundings and famous artist membership; the foremost of these being the Harlem Community Art Center and the South Side Community Art Center.⁷⁸

The Harlem Community Art Center is commonly viewed by historians as the paradigm for Black creative organizations of the WPA-era.⁷⁹ The center engaged with various institutions to organize and host several Black art exhibitions during its short existence.⁸⁰ In August 1938, a student cohort from the Harlem Community Art Center presented 40 lithography and watercolor pieces at the YMCA of Chicago.⁸¹ The center later held the *Exhibition of Negro Cultural Work on the Federal Arts Projects of New York City* to highlight the contributions of Black Americans in all branches of Federal Project no. 1 in February 1939.⁸²

⁷⁵ Smithsonian Institute. n.d. "Downtown Gallery Records." Archives of American Art. <https://www.si.edu/object/archives/sova-aaa-downgall>.

⁷⁶ Black Art Story. 2020a "Profile: Elba Lightfoot." Uncategorized (blog). <https://blackartstory.org/2020/12/02/profile-elba-lightfoot-1910/>; Donnelly, M. 2016. "Art of Dox Thrash." *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/>.

⁷⁷ Parker, T. C. 1938. "Negro Art" (speech). In "Holger Cahill Papers, 1910-1993." Smithsonian Institute- Archives of American Art. Reel 1105, Frame 0623: WPA/FAP and Negro Art 1938–1943. <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/holger-cahill-papers-6730/subseries-3-1/>.

⁷⁸ The Harlem Community Art Center existed until 1942. In 2001, the Harlem Arts Alliance was established in the same building at 290 Lenox Avenue, New York City, New York. Columbia University. 2008. "Harlem Community Art Center." Mapping the African American Past. <https://maap.columbia.edu/place/58.html>. The center is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Further discussion of the South Side Community Art Center appears in section 2.7.

⁷⁹ Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection," 87.

⁸⁰ "Harlem Community Art Center," Mapping the African American Past.

⁸¹ Kalfatovic. 1994. *The New Deal Fine Arts Projects: A Bibliography, 1933–1992*, 135.

⁸² Kalfatovic, *The New Deal Fine Arts Projects: A Bibliography, 1933–1992*, 176.

Notably, the Harlem Community Art Center often collaborated with local medical institutions, including the Bellevue Hospital and the Harlem Hospital. The center was known to hold classes for hospitalized community members, particularly children.⁸³ In late 1938, Bellevue and the New York FAP sponsored an exhibition at the Harlem Community Art Center entitled *Art and Psychopathology*. The exhibit featured over 100 works of various mediums completed by patients in the hospital's psychiatric division.⁸⁴ Prominent members of the Harlem Community Art Center, such as Charles Alston and Fort Huachuca presenter Elba Lightfoot, were also commissioned by the WPA to create a series of murals in Harlem Hospital. In 1936, this commission marked the first major federal commission for Black artists.⁸⁵

Though Harlem often claims historians' attention, similar community art centers and galleries existed around the country. In a 1938 speech delivered to the American Teachers Association at the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Assistant Director of the FAP Thomas C. Parker highlighted five of these institutions as particularly important for the dissemination of Black art. Harlem's center was listed alongside those in Raleigh, North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, Jacksonville, Florida, and Memphis, Tennessee.⁸⁶ The Raleigh, Greensboro, and Jacksonville centers were opened in 1936 as (segregated) extension sites for existing galleries, intended to serve the Black community specifically. An article from *The New York Age* commented that "great interest and success have attended the Negro Extension Galleries," though it is unclear how that success compared to the galleries' White counterparts.⁸⁷

The activities of the Southern community art centers and galleries are severely under-documented, though it is evident that they positively engaged with local Black populations and institutions. Parker noted that the centers in Raleigh, Greensboro, and Memphis were established through collaboration between the FAP and area Black colleges and universities.⁸⁸ The relationship between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and

⁸³ "Harlem Community Art Center," Mapping the African American Past.

⁸⁴ Kalfatovic. 1994. *The New Deal Fine Arts Projects*, 149–150.

⁸⁵ NYC Public Design Commission. n.d. "WPA Hospital Murals: Harlem Hospital." Urban Archive: Stories. <https://www.urbanarchive.org/stories/X2kjFedX7nJ>.

⁸⁶ Parker. 1938. "Negro Art" (speech). Frame 0622–0624: WPA/FAP and Negro Art.

⁸⁷ New York Age. 1938. "Art Project Opens Extension Project," *The New York Age*, January 15, 1938. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/89587911>.

⁸⁸ Parker. 1938. "Negro Art" (speech). Frame 0622–0624: WPA/FAP and Negro Art.

the FAP, in addition to private institutions like the Harmon Foundation, was foundational in enabling Black artists, establishing a Black art presence, and preserving Black creative works.⁸⁹ This is demonstrated in community exhibitions, such as *Paintings by Negro WPA Artists*. Hosted at the Crosby Garfield Extension Gallery on Shaw University's campus, the Raleigh exhibition featured an array of works, including Eldzier Cortor's *She Didn't Forget*, which was also presented at the 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition (Figure 7).⁹⁰ Regardless of region or surviving documentation, community art centers provided an opportunity for creative education and presentation in Black communities that were largely neglected in national showcases of "American art."⁹¹

Figure 7. Visitors at *Paintings by Negro WPA Artists*, Crosby Garfield Extension Gallery, between 1930 and 1945. (Image reproduced from the Archives of American Art. Public domain.)



⁸⁹ Rowell, C. H., and F. Coleman. 2016. "Talking Howard University, DC-MD, and Visual Art: A Conversation with Floyd Coleman." *Callaloo* 39 (5): 1155–1156. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26776269>.

⁹⁰ Visitors at *Paintings by Negro WPA Artists*, Crosby Garfield Extension Gallery, Raleigh Art Center, between 1930 and 1945. Holger Cahill papers, 1910-1993, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/items/detail/>.

⁹¹ Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection, 89.

2.5 Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists at Fort Huachuca, 1943

The *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* was dedicated 16 May 1943 at the MVOC, Fort Huachuca's segregated club for Black officers (Figure 8). The exhibit was organized under the supervision of Lew Davis and encouraged by Fort Huachuca's Post Commander, Colonel Edwin Hardy. Administrators in the FAP, including National Director Holger Cahill, also assisted in exhibition planning. It is not known who exactly conceived the idea for an art exhibit at the MVOC. However, correspondence between W. J. Jamieson, Arizona WPA Administrator, and Florence Kerr, the Assistant Commissioner for the WPA in Washington, DC, suggests that the idea emerged sometime in 1942.⁹² Around December 1942, Jamieson and his staff informed a Mrs. Isham (likely Mary H. Isham, the Regional Supervisor of Professional and Service Projects for the WPA) about the potential exhibit, and asked her where they could procure Black art on behalf of Fort Huachuca.⁹³ Isham suggested that Jamieson contact California's WPA Administrator, Henry Amory. In the meantime, Isham also contacted Kerr in Washington, DC, to see if Black art could be collected on behalf of Fort Huachuca. On 16 January 1943, Jamieson informed Kerr that the California district was unable to lend any artwork. Because of this response, Jamieson suggested that an attempt should be made to gather Black WPA artwork from throughout the United States, though he did not indicate who would be responsible for collecting the pieces. Jamieson also remarked that Colonel Hardy had great interest in the project and asked that all art be sent to Lew Davis at Fort Huachuca.⁹⁴

⁹² W. J. Jamieson to Florence Kerr, January 16, 1943, Archives of American Art.

⁹³ Mary H. Isham is mentioned as Regional Supervisor of Professional and Service Projects in: Taber, R. W. 1970. "Writers on Relief: The Making of the Washington Guide, 1935-1941," *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 61 (4): 185–192. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40488833>.

⁹⁴ Jamieson to Kerr, January 16, 1943.

Figure 8. Looking northeast toward the Mountain View Officers' Club (MVOC), 1943. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Historical Museum. Public domain.)



Given that Davis had been invited to Fort Huachuca in 1942 to begin working on two murals for the Lakeview Officers' Club (the segregated club for White officers), several factors indicate he may have been the one who suggested placing artwork in the MVOC.⁹⁵ Recalling his initial visit to Fort Huachuca, Davis said he was struck by the low morale of the Black troops stationed there. Although he did not provide specific examples of the low morale he witnessed, he did remember that many of the Government Issued Army posters had been ripped from the walls—most men stationed at Fort Huachuca had no affinity for these posters, which typically depicted blonde-haired, blue-eyed White soldiers.⁹⁶ To boost morale, Davis offered to set up a silkscreen printing studio to create posters featuring Black soldiers. After establishing the silkscreen studio, Davis also set up a mural painting workshop for fellow artists on post.⁹⁷ Desiring to see these artistic enterprises continue at Fort Huachuca, Davis enlisted in the Army in January 1944 and was stationed at Fort Huachuca with special permission

⁹⁵ Correspondence by Colonel Hardy on December 16, 1942, suggests that Davis had already visited Fort Huachuca before that date. Colonel Edwin N. Hardy to Ray Vyne, December 16, 1942, Archives of American Art.

⁹⁶ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis, "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, 5.

⁹⁷ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, 3; 12; 29.

from Colonel Hardy.⁹⁸ It is clear from these examples that Davis promoted art at Fort Huachuca to boost morale, so Davis may have also conceived the art exhibit. Additionally, the pieces assembled for the 1943 exhibit were produced by WPA artists, an association with which Davis had a strong connection as a former Arizona WPA art director.⁹⁹

On 2 February 1943, Kerr confirmed that the Washington, DC, WPA office had received Isham's December 1942 inquiry about procuring Black art for Fort Huachuca. Kerr explained that art was being collected at the Washington, DC, office and the WPA's Central Allocation Center in Chicago.¹⁰⁰ This center was established during WWII to "disburse moveable, undistributed artwork from various state projects."¹⁰¹ The collection process continued steadily, and by February 1943, a total of 35 works had already been assembled for Fort Huachuca's exhibit. Kerr explained that additional pieces were expected upon the conclusion of other WPA exhibits containing Black art.¹⁰²

While the Central Allocation Center was responsible for gathering potential artwork, Holger Cahill, National Director of the WPA's FAP program, made the final determination of which pieces to present.¹⁰³ In March 1943, Cahill planned to visit Colonel Hardy at Fort Huachuca and tour the MVOC. During the visit, Cahill hoped to inspect the MVOC and its surroundings to determine which pieces would be appropriate for the venue. However, for unknown reasons, Cahill was unable to visit Fort Huachuca. Despite this fact, Colonel Hardy assured Cahill in April 1943 that exhibit preparations were progressing smoothly, and that Davis was getting ready to arrange the first shipment of paintings.¹⁰⁴

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Cahill as director of the WPA's FAP in 1935. Cahill's career in art began in the 1920s, when he began

⁹⁸ *Apache Sentinel*. 1944. "Mr. Lew Davis Returns to Fort as Private Davis." *Apache Sentinel*, February 4, 1944, 2, Arizona Memory Project Digital Newspaper Collection, <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32142>; Edwin N. Hardy to Major General F.H. Osborn, September 1, 1944, RG: 107, Box/Entry, NARA-College Park.

⁹⁹ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists, Officers Mountainview Club, Fort Huachuca, Arizona," US Army Exhibition Pamphlet, May 16, 1943. Fort Huachuca Historical Museum.

¹⁰⁰ Florence Kerr to Ray N. Vyne, February 2, 1943, Archives of American Art.

¹⁰¹ Zimmer, J. L. 2001. "Federal Art Projects in Illinois during the Great Depression." *The Living Museum* 63 (3), 6. https://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/art/WPA/pdfs/wpa_article.pdf.

¹⁰² Florence Kerr to Ray N. Vyne, February 2, 1943.

¹⁰³ *Art Digest, The*. 1943. Issue 7, August 1943, 15.

¹⁰⁴ Colonel Edwin N. Hardy to Holger Cahill, April 15, 1943, Archives of American Art.

working at the Newark Art Museum. He developed an interest in American art and began cataloging as many works as he could locate. Cahill was especially interested in American folk art and works by unidentified artists.¹⁰⁵ Writing to Colonel Hardy on 24 April 1943, Cahill remarked that New Deal-era art initiatives over the preceding ten years provided valuable opportunities for Black artists to produce new works. Cahill also believed that the works selected for Fort Huachuca's exhibit were a representative example of the diversity of art created under WPA sponsorship.¹⁰⁶

Colonel Hardy fully supported the exhibit, both to improve the appearance of the MVOC and to boost morale. Colonel Hardy said as much in remarks he prepared for the exhibit's dedication on 16 May 1943 (Figure 9). In a pamphlet produced for the ceremony, Colonel Hardy explained:

This program will not only solve our original desire to attractively decorate the Club but will serve a much broader and deeper purpose. It will provide an opportunity for every officer, soldier, and civilian at this station to study this unique collection of American Negro Art. This collection will not only be a worthy cause of pride in the accomplishment and promise of Negro artists but will serve as an inspiration to all of us as representing one of the steps in the development of a broader and better American citizenship.¹⁰⁷

The exhibit opened at the MVOC from 16–22 May 1943, then toured to the Service Club No. 1 from 23–29 May, then to the Service Club No. 2 from 30 May–5 June. After being featured at the Service Club No. 2, the exhibit returned to the MVOC for permanent exhibition.¹⁰⁸ Headlines in the 92nd Infantry paper, *The Buffalo*, promoted the exhibit before its opening and exalted its success after the dedication ceremony (Figure 9–Figure 11).

¹⁰⁵ Jeffers, W. 2006. "Holger Cahill (1887-1960)." Nancy Lorange: WPA Murals. <http://wpamurals.org/cahill.htm>.

¹⁰⁶ Holger Cahill to Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, April 24, 1943, Archives of American Art.

¹⁰⁷ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet. 1943.

¹⁰⁸ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet. 1943.

Figure 9. Colonel Hardy speaking at the exhibit dedication, 1943. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public domain.)



Figure 10. A headline in *The Buffalo* promoting the art exhibit, 12 May 1943. (Image reproduced from *The Buffalo*. Public domain.)¹⁰⁹



¹⁰⁹ Buffalo, The. 1943. "Showing of Negro Art at Mountainview Club." *The Buffalo*, May 12, 1943, 10, Arizona Memory Project, <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/37939>.

Figure 11. A headline in *The Buffalo* after the exhibit dedication, 22 May 1943. (Image reproduced from *The Buffalo*. Public domain.)¹¹⁰



The dedication pamphlet stated that 87 works of art created had been prepared for the exhibit (Figure 12). The works fell into four broad categories of mediums: oils (which included all types of paintings), prints and drawings, murals, and sculptures. The oils category included 38 entries painted by 23 individuals, a diverse group which included well-known artists (e.g., Eldzier Cortor and Archibald Motley) and lesser-known artists (e.g., Earl Walker and Henry Avery). The prints and drawings category offered 44 pieces by a less diverse group of only 13 artists. Fourteen of the 44 pieces were produced by Dox Thrash, a master of carborundum printing.¹¹¹ There was one submission in the mural category, Charles White's renowned painting *Five Great Americans*, which celebrated prominent Black figures in American history. There were three submissions for the sculpture category, which included one work by burgeoning artist Lester Mathews and two pieces by renowned sculptor Sargent Johnson.¹¹²

¹¹⁰ Buffalo, The. 1943. "Exhibit of Negro Art Thrills Large Crowd at Mountainview." *The Buffalo*, May 22, 1943, 10, Arizona Memory Project, <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/37941>.

¹¹¹ Carborundum printing is a process in which carborundum (carbide silicon, a very hard compound) is blasted against a metal plate, creating an abrasive surface. The prepared plate is then etched or brandished for printmaking. The process was invented by WPA artists in Philadelphia in the late 1930s. Medley-Buckner, C. 1999. "Carborundum Mezzotint and Carborundum Etching." *Print Quarterly* 16 (1): 34–35. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41825234>.

¹¹² "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet. 1943.

Figure 12. The cover of the exhibition pamphlet. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public domain.)



Although the event was billed as an *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists*, only 36 artists are actually printed in the pamphlet. Additionally, seven artists identified as “White” according to public records such as census data and draft cards. It is possible that, despite identifying as “White,” these artists were included in the exhibition because their body of work depicted Black individuals or themes related to the Black experience in America. All the exhibit artists are explored in more detail in Chapter 3.

In addition to the exhibit itself, the dedication ceremony was a significant social event at Fort Huachuca and was attended by prominent Black artists, including Hale Woodruff, Vernon Winslow, and Richmond Barthé (Figure 13). All three gave speeches during the program; Woodruff prepared an address titled “Art in Wartime,” Winslow spoke on “The Negro in Art,” and Barthé gave a speech concerning “Public Sponsorship of Art.” Colonel Hardy was at hand to make the welcoming address and officially present the collection to those in attendance. Additionally, the presentation was enriched with the vocal talents of Lawrence Whisonant, an accomplished musician who, after the war, changed his name to

Lawrence White and became a well-known opera singer.¹¹³ The backgrounds of Colonel Hardy, Hale Woodruff, Vernon Winslow, and Richmond Barthé are explored in more detail in sections 2.9.2 and 2.9.3.1 through 2.9.3.3. The audience also included many prominent figures, including Major-General Edward M. Almond (Commanding General of the 92nd Infantry Division), Colonel Midian Othello Bousfield (Commanding Officer of the Medical Corps at Fort Huachuca and governor of the MVOC), Thomas E. Campbell (former governor of Arizona), and Dr. Olaf A. Anderson (dean of the Fine Arts Department at the University of Arizona), among other distinguished guests and their families (Figure 14–Figure 15).¹¹⁴

Figure 13. *Left to right:* Vernon Winslow, Hale Woodruff, Colonel Hardy, Lieutenant Colonel Carroll F. E. Nelson, and Richmond Barthé at the exhibit opening in 1943.
(Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public domain.)



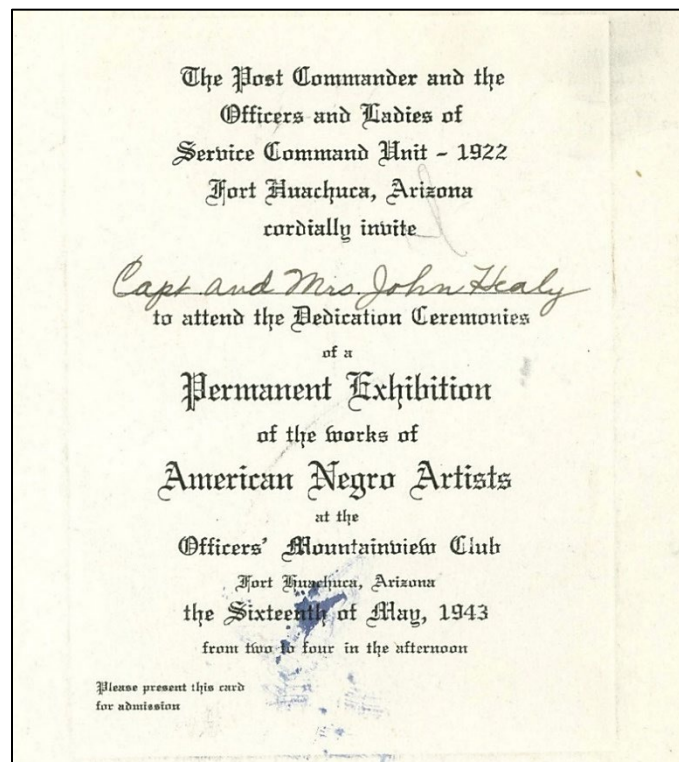
¹¹³ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet. 1943.

¹¹⁴ Bisbee Daily Review. 1943. "Works of 34 Negro Artists from Nine States Displayed at Huachuca." *Bisbee Daily Review*, May 18, 1943, 8.

Figure 14. Guests at the dedication of the art exhibit in 1943. Lew Davis is seated in the front row, third from the right. His wife, Mathilde Davis, is seated in the same row, second from the left. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public domain.)



Figure 15. A sample of an invitation to the exhibit. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public domain.)



The exhibit was significant enough to capture the attention of the *Art Digest*, a professional magazine with national readership. The magazine's August 1943 edition featured a picture of several of the exhibit's prominent organizers and guests—Vernon Winslow, Hale Woodruff, Colonel Hardy, Lt. Colonel Carroll F. E. Nelson, and Richmond Bathe (see Figure 13). An extended caption accompanying the picture explained that Lew Davis was the chief supervisor of the exhibit and the art itself had been selected by Holger Cahill.¹¹⁵

After rotating through Service Club No. 1 and No. 2, the art remained in the MVOC for over a year before discussions concerning its safe removal surfaced. The topic arose because officials believed that Fort Huachuca was facing imminent closure in the fall of 1944. In an effort to remove the art at the MVOC in a suitable manner, Colonel Bousfield wrote to President Mordecai Johnson of Howard University (a historically Black college in Washington, DC) on 15 September 1944 and asked if the university would be interested in receiving some of the WPA art.¹¹⁶ On 30 September, President Johnson wired Colonel Bousfield and affirmed his interest in securing the art.¹¹⁷ In the meantime, plans to close Fort Huachuca and the MVOC had stalled sometime in early October. In a telephone conversation between President Johnson and Colonel Hardy on 17 October 1944, Johnson remarked that he was satisfied to learn the MVOC would continue operating for the short-term. However, he reiterated that Howard University was the most appropriate place to send the artwork when authorities did officially close Fort Huachuca and the MVOC. In Johnson's estimation, Howard was the most suitable venue for four reasons: the school had a long history of federal government support, the university had a respected ROTC, it maintained an art gallery with national clientele, and the gallery occasionally took its art on tour, exposing it to a broader audience.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁵ *The Art Digest*, Issue 7, August 1943, 15.

¹¹⁶ Colonel M.O. Bousfield to President Mordecai W. Johnson, September 15, 1944, RG 107: Box 207, Entry 91: Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, 1940–1947, Fort Huachuca, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

¹¹⁷ G. Frederick Stanton to James C. Evans, October 4, 1944, RG 107: Box 208, Entry 188: Office of Assistant Secretary of War Civilian Aide to the Secretary, 1940–47, Fort Huachuca, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

¹¹⁸ President Mordecai W. Johnson to Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, October 30, 1944, NARA College Park.

A year and a half later, plans were underway again to close Fort Huachuca and the MVOC, and President Johnson followed up on his intentions to secure the art for Howard. On 28 February 1946, President Johnson reached out to Lieutenant Colonel Lamb to make “application on behalf of Howard University for the WPA art objects which have adorned the Mountainview Officers’ Quarters [sic] at Fort Huachuca.”¹¹⁹ On 15 March, he forwarded a request for assistance to Marcus Ray, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War.¹²⁰ A few days later, Ray wrote Fort Huachuca to determine the “feasibility of releasing the murals, paintings, and other items to [Howard].”¹²¹ Colonel G.B. Appelman, an infantry commander at Fort Huachuca, responded to Ray’s letter on 28 March 1946, explaining that the House Committee of the Officers’ Club had determined to donate the art to Howard, with the expectation that Howard would pay for packing and shipping.¹²² Here the archived correspondence ends.

2.6 Significance of the Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists

Apart from regional newspaper articles and a brief mention in the *Art Digest*, the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* did not generate much attention in 1943. Although the exhibit did not receive widespread coverage, it was a nationally significant event. The significance of the exhibit is best understood in comparison to other exhibits in which Black artists participated, especially through the WPA’s Federal Art Project. In her 2016 journal article “Expansion and Redirection: African Americans and the New Deal Federal Art Projects,” art historian Mary Ann Calo examines the historiography surrounding Black involvement in FAP art projects, Community Art Centers, and exhibitions. To aid future research on this topic, Calo contends that “scholars should . . . pay closer attention to the exhibition opportunities afforded Black artists on the federal projects, from the standpoint of quantity, content, location, and status.”¹²³ Since WPA officials helped organize the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* and it contained works created exclusively by WPA artists, Calo’s criteria provides the best framework through which to consider the exhibit’s significance. In short, a principal reason why the *Exhibition of 37 Negro*

¹¹⁹ President Mordecai W. Johnson to Marcus H. Ray, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, March 15, 1946, NARA College Park.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Marcus H. Ray to Commanding Officer, Fort Huachuca, March 16, 1946, NARA College Park.

¹²² Colonel G.B. Appelman to Marcus H. Ray, March 28, 1946, NARA College Park.

¹²³ Calo, “Expansion and Redirection,” 89.

Artists was important is because it occurred outside of a metropolitan context, introducing countless individuals to the works of nationally significant artists.

Quantity: Fort Huachuca's exhibit contained 87 pieces of art created by 36 artists. Although seven artists are identified as White in public documents most of the participants were Black Americans. Apart from an inventory of displayed artwork at FAP Community Art Centers and exhibitions, quantitative comparisons are difficult to make. Part of this difficulty stems from an incomplete accounting of FAP art centers and galleries. Calo concedes that more scholarship is needed in this area.¹²⁴

Content: At the national level, participation by Black artists in major WPA exhibitions was minimal.¹²⁵ Although community art centers and other FAP projects improved representation for Black artists at the regional level, most local shows were medium-specific.¹²⁶ Almost all the work displayed at Fort Huachuca was created by Black artists, and a high percentage of participants were well-known in their profession. Additionally, Fort Huachuca's exhibit featured a variety of mediums, including watercolor paintings, oil paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures.¹²⁷

Location: Events featuring Black artists were expected in cosmopolitan centers, such as Harlem, New York, where centers of Black cultural production had been established and exhibitions catered to the general public.¹²⁸ However, further investigation is needed to examine the extent and impact of FAP activities (as they relate to Black art) outside of these urban cores. Calo states that "Expanding discussion . . . to consider activities outside of major metropolitan areas has the potential to place a greater variety of Black experiences at the center of scholarly inquiries into the effectiveness of New Deal art projects."¹²⁹ Fort Huachuca's exhibit was held at remote, predominately-Black military base in southern Arizona—which is significant in itself. However, the greater implication of this fact is that the audience primarily consisted of servicemen and servicewomen.

¹²⁴ Calo, "Expansion and Redirection," 86.

¹²⁵ Calo, "Expansion and Redirection," 89.

¹²⁶ Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection," 89.

¹²⁷ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet. 1943.

¹²⁸ Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection," 84, 87.

¹²⁹ Although Calo refers specifically to Community Art Centers in this statement, the recommendation can apply to other WPA-FAP sponsored activities. Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection," 87.

Assuming that not all personnel at Fort Huachuca came from communities with Black FAP projects or community art centers, the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* likely exposed countless individuals to the works of nationally significant artists. Scholars often consider the FAP's activities, especially through the community art centers, as "inclusive in principle, and implicitly educational and social in purpose."¹³⁰ In concurrence with this claim, the exhibit at Fort Huachuca stands out as an important (and little known) example of outreach beyond the typical metropolitan context.

Status: The Fort Huachuca exhibit featured the works of many high-profile WPA Black artists from across the country, such as Archibald Motley, Dox Thrash, and Sargent Johnson. Encountering the works of several prominent artists in one venue was expected at a nationally billed event, such as the *Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro* in Chicago, but notable at Fort Huachuca given its status as a remote military post¹³¹ While the quantity of art at Fort Huachuca did not match the Chicago exhibition (87 pieces versus over 300), the status of its participants is comparable.¹³²

While useful, comparing the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* with WPA-FAP activities alone may imply that its significance is limited to this context. For the criteria enumerated above, the exhibit should be considered a significant event in American art and military history beyond its association with WPA organizers and artists. During research, the authors of this report encountered no sources suggesting the Army had ever hosted an event celebrating the artistic or cultural contributions of Black Americans before the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists*.¹³³ Therefore, the authors also believe this

¹³⁰ Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection," 84.

¹³¹ "Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro," Pamphlet. 1940.

¹³² *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists*, Pamphlet. 1943.; "Exhibition of the Art of the American Negro," Pamphlet. 1940.

¹³³ A cursory examination of articles on Newspapers.com did not reveal any art exhibits hosted by the military or Army between 1900 and 1940. During WWII, Fort Custer (Battle Creek, Michigan) hosted at least three Army art exhibits. The initial exhibit, held on 3 Aug. 1941, represented "the first army art exhibit to be held in the United States since the present defense training program was begun last November [1940]." "Custer Soldiers Ready to Give Art Exhibition," *Detroit Sunday Times*, July 13, 1941. In the spring of 1945, the top 30 works of art from all Service Commands were assembled for an anticipated 4th of July Army art show in Washington DC. "American Carries Torch for Culture During War," *The Bedford Daily Times-Mail*, Bedford, IN, January 9, 1945. During WWII, the War Department supported the work of civilian artists to visually document military life and operations. Later, the Army established a Historical Properties Section responsible for curating and exhibiting over 2,000 pieces of art it had accumulated through these wartime efforts, becoming the basis for the present-day Army art collection program. "Army Art Program: A Brief History," United States Army Center of Military History, accessed January 12, 2023, <https://history.army.mil/>.

event represented an important and unprecedented moment in the Army's pre-integration era (desegregation in the US Armed Forces did not occur until Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 in 1948).¹³⁴

2.7 Bronzeville, Chicago and the South Side Community Art Center (SSCAC)

Participants in Fort Huachuca's 1943 exhibition came from a variety of cultural hubs across the country. These communities fostered social and professional kinships that enriched the development of Black political, social, musical, and artistic movements in the early 20th century. One such location was Bronzeville, a neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago (Figure 16). Bronzeville's population grew significantly in the 1910s and 1920s as Black Americans from the South moved to Northern urban centers in search of steady employment. Given its location within a major American city, Bronzeville blossomed into a hub of intellectual and artistic activity, much like Harlem in New York City.¹³⁵

The neighborhood earned the moniker of "Black Metropolis" and boasted several landmarks, such as the opulent Pekin Theater and the Wabash YMCA, one of the earliest Black YMCAs in the country (Figure 17).¹³⁶ Many prominent Black Americans of the early and mid-20th century had ties to Bronzeville, including trumpeter Louis Armstrong, author Richard Wright, aviator Bessie Coleman, and Civil Rights activist Ida B. Wells.¹³⁷ Bronzeville also became home to several budding and established artists in the 1930s and 1940s, many of whom had ties to the South Side Community Art Center (SSCAC).¹³⁸

¹³⁴ White House, The. 1948. *Desegregation of the Armed Forces*. EO 9981. Harry S. Truman Library, <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/executive-orders/9981/executive-order-9981>.

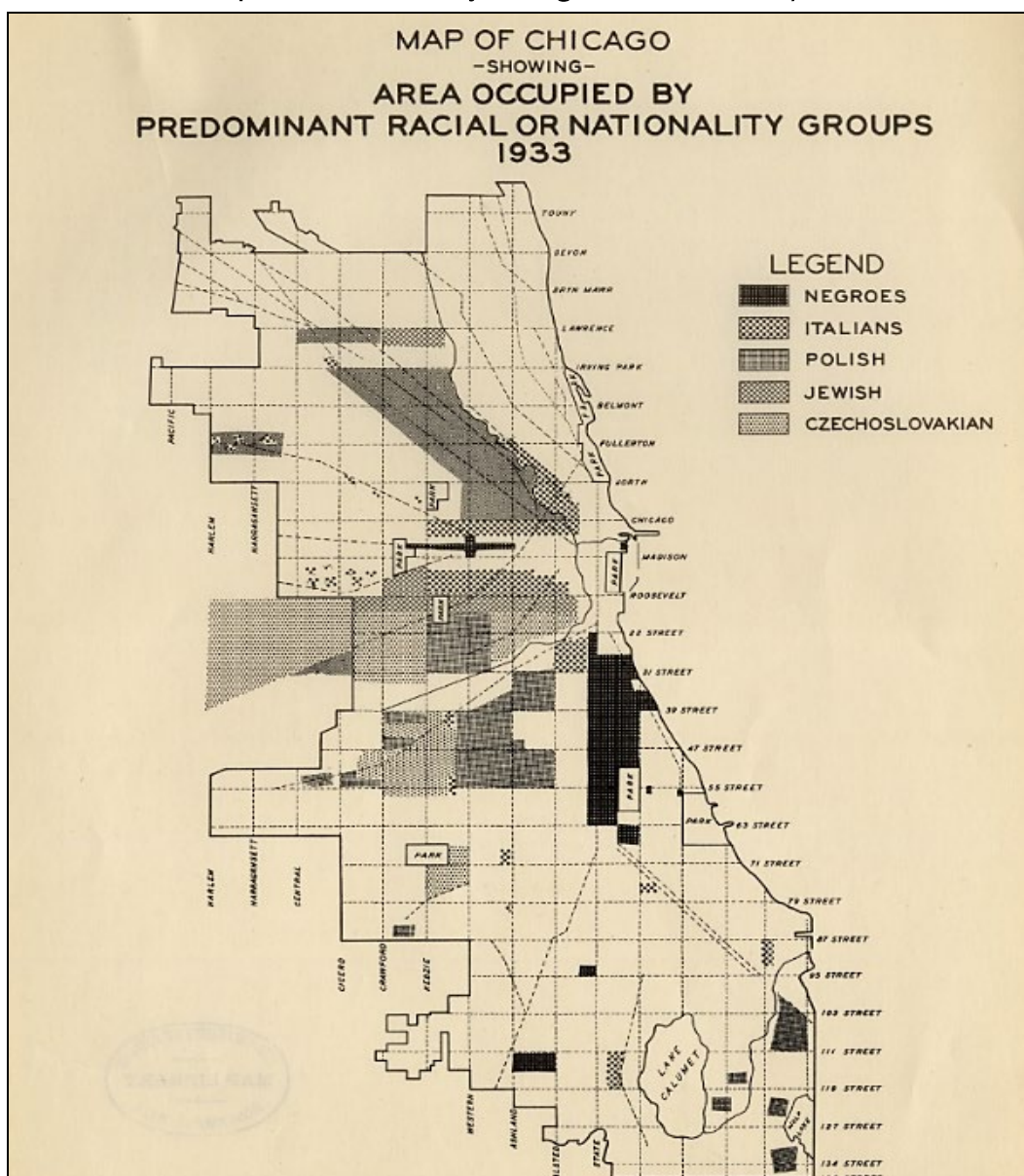
¹³⁵ University of Chicago. n.d. "History of Bronzeville." Chicago Studies. <https://chicagostudies.uchicago.edu/bronzeville/bronzeville-history-bronzeville>.

¹³⁶ African American Registry (AAREG). n.d. "The Bronzeville Neighborhood (Chicago): A Story." Today's Stories. <https://aaregistry.org/story/the-bronzeville-neighborhood-a-story/>.

¹³⁷ MasterClass. 2022. "Bronzeville: A History of Chicago's Bronzeville Neighborhood." Articles. <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/bronzeville-history>.

¹³⁸ University of Chicago. n.d. "South Side Community Art Center Archives." Mapping the Stacks: A Guide to Black Chicago's Hidden Archives. <https://mts.lib.uchicago.edu/artifacts/index.php?id=sscac>.

Figure 16. Demographic map of Chicago, 1933. The area constituting a higher percentage of Black residents south of Chicago demarcates the Bronzeville neighborhood. (Image reproduced from Library of Congress. Public domain.)¹³⁹



¹³⁹ Social Science Research Committee. 1933. "Map of Chicago, Showing Area Occupied by Predominant Racial or Nationality Groups," Social Scientists Map Chicago Digital Collection, University of Chicago Library.

Figure 17. Theater district in Bronzeville, 1941. (Image reproduced from Library of Congress. Public domain.)¹⁴⁰



The SSCAC was established in 1940 in Chicago's culturally vibrant Bronzeville neighborhood. During the 1930s, the WPA Art Project sought to enrich communities throughout the United States by supporting the creation of local art venues. The FAP promised to subsidize renovation and maintenance costs if local citizens raised the money to buy or rent a facility. The Bronzeville community believed that their neighborhood was a prime spot for such a venue, and in 1938, residents established the Community Art Center Committee to search for an appropriate facility. The committee found a potential venue on Michigan Avenue, the former Soverns Mansion, and successfully raised money for its purchase.

When it opened in 1940, the SSCAC became the country's first Black art institution, and it is currently the oldest continually operating center for Black art. The early success of the SSCAC may be attributed to the efforts of several influential Black artists, including Margaret Taylor-Burroughs, Eldzier Cortor, Charles White, Archibald Motley, William Carter, Henry Avery, Joseph Kersey, and Bernard Goss. Cortor, White, Motley, Avery, and Carter all participated in Fort Huachuca's 1943 art exhibit. A special dedication ceremony at the SSCAC attracted a significant amount of

¹⁴⁰ Russell Lee, photographer, *The movies are popular in the Negro section of Chicago, Illinois*, 1941, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017789008/>.

attention, and even featured an appearance by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (Figure 18). Given its status as a creative hub for Black art, it is no surprise that so many participants at Fort Huachuca's 1943 art exhibition have ties to the SSCAC, or to the art scene in Chicago as a whole.¹⁴¹ Today, the SSCAC is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its association with Black social history and artistic enterprise.¹⁴²

Figure 18. Eleanor Roosevelt at the dedication of the South Side Community Art Center (SSCAC). (Image reproduced from Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. Public domain.)¹⁴³



2.8 The Pyramid Club, Philadelphia

Another creative hub for artists at Fort Huachuca's exhibition, and black art in general, was Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Pyramid Club was created in 1937 for the "cultural, civic, and social advancement" of the local Black

¹⁴¹ University of Chicago. n.d. "South Side Community Art Center Archives;" South Side Community Art Center. n.d. "Building a Legacy." History and Archives. <https://www.sscartcenter.org/about-us/building-legacy/>.

¹⁴² Brackett C. 2018. *South Side Community Art Center*. NRHP nomination 100002914. Washington, DC: DOI-NPS. September 13, 2018. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail/362ac4df-5c1e-476f-a1dd-6a90eb468a7e>.

¹⁴³ Photograph No. 195935; "Eleanor Roosevelt at dedication of South Side Chicago Art Center," May 1941; Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Public Domain Photographs, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/195935>.

community.¹⁴⁴ The club was formed by a group of Philadelphian Black professionals led by Dr. Walter Jerrick, a physician.¹⁴⁵ For the first two years, Jerrick and the original members gathered in the basement of a downtown YMCA before acquiring a building at 1517 Girard Avenue in 1940.¹⁴⁶ The property was recently nominated to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places due to the club's cultural impact on the city (Figure 19).¹⁴⁷

Figure 19. Photo of the Pyramid Club, c. 1940s.
(Image used with permission from Temple University.
Applicable rights reserved.)¹⁴⁸



¹⁴⁴ Brigham, D. R. 2008. "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts." *Antiques & Fine Arts Magazine*. Autumn/Winter 2008. <https://www.incollect.com/articles/the-pyramid-club-and-the-pennsylvania-academy-of-the-fine-arts>.

¹⁴⁵ Pacini, M. 1988. "Oral History Interview with Humbert Howard" (interview). Smithsonian Institute-Archives of American Art. October 26, 1988. <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-humbert-howard-11445>.

¹⁴⁶ Gregory, K. 2010. "Legacy of a Clubhouse." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Feb. 10, 2010. https://www.inquirer.com/philly/living/20100208_The_old_brownstone_on_a_worn_strip_of_Girard_Avenue_has_NO_HEAD_SPECIFIED.html.

¹⁴⁷ Block, K. P. 2021. *The Pyramid Club: Nomination for the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places*. Philadelphia Historical Commission. Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, January 2021. <https://www.phila.gov/media/20210706132300/1517.pdf>.

¹⁴⁸ John W. Mosley, photographer, *Pyramid Club*, c. 1940s, John W. Mosley Photograph Collection, Temple University Libraries, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll17/id/619/rec/164>.

The Pyramid Club attracted many middle-class Black Americans across the city, with membership hovering around 350 men at the club's height.¹⁴⁹ For a fee of \$120.00, plus \$2.40 a month, members had access to several creative showcases and lectures from prominent figures, including Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Marian Anderson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Oppenheimer.¹⁵⁰ The club also housed a restaurant and bar, a highly valued social space amid racial segregation. In addition to membership dues, Pyramid Clubbers were required to join the NAACP, making the organization the only known social club of the time with such a requirement.¹⁵¹ Though many women engaged with the NAACP and attended club events, they were not permitted as members but were welcome in the space as part of the Pyramid Wives Club. Despite their official exclusion, several women acted on project coordination committees.¹⁵²

The Pyramid Club is most remembered for its contribution to the visual arts. In 1941, the club hosted its first annual art exhibition, a tradition which continued for over a decade. Philadelphia native and Fort Huachuca presenter, Humbert Howard, was the club's art director, tasked with handpicking pieces to be included in the exhibitions (Figure 20). Several artists involved with the 1943 Huachuca exhibition also showed at the Pyramid Club, including Richmond Barthé, Hale Woodruff, Dox Thrash, Edward Loper, Samuel J. Brown, and Claude Clark.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁹ Gregory. 2010. "Legacy of a Clubhouse."

¹⁵⁰ Brigham. 2008. "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts."

¹⁵¹ Crisis, The. 1944. "Pyramid Club Members NAACP." *The Crisis* 51 (5): 157, May 1944. Accessed through Google Books.
<https://books.google.com/books?id=P1sEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA157#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

¹⁵² Howard, S. 2010. "Pyramid Club's Black Art Legacy." *Art (blog), Auction Finds*. March 3, 2010. <https://myauctionfinds.com/2010/03/03/the-pyramid-club%e2%80%99s-black-art-legacy/>.

¹⁵³ Howard. 2010. "Pyramid Club's Black Art Legacy."

Figure 20. Humbert Howard (*far right*) with other members of the Pyramid Club. (Used with permission from Temple University. Applicable rights reserved.)¹⁵⁴



Exhibitions at the Pyramid Club mainly highlighted Black artists but also included some White creators who explored Black themes and subjects in a respectful manner.¹⁵⁵ By 1945, Howard opened the annual displays to all artists, regardless of race or subject matter. He believed that complete integration would popularize the club, and that the presence of prominent White artists in the collection would lend credibility to underrecognized Black artists. The decision was not free from critique. In 1949, Pyramid Club members raised valid complaints that the exhibition featured more White artists than Black artists, and that many of the White artists had ties to racially discriminatory institutes and galleries.¹⁵⁶

Though controversial, Howard stood by his integrationist practices through his time as director with some success. Howard worked to strengthen the club's longstanding relationship with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and mediated significant artistic and intellectual exchange with the academy. The school provided many pieces (by Black and White artists) for

¹⁵⁴ John W. Mosley, photographer, *Humbert Howard at a Pyramid Club Garden Party*, July 1, 1951, John W. Mosley Photograph Collection, Temple University Libraries, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll17/id/681>.

¹⁵⁵ Brigham. 2008. "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts."

¹⁵⁶ Brigham. 2008. "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts."

the club to display, while the club encouraged the school to advocate more strongly for Black artists in the academic community.¹⁵⁷ The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts proved to be a faithful ally, and many Pyramid Club works live on in their collections.¹⁵⁸

In the late 1950s, the Pyramid Club experienced significant tension as to the organization's purpose and direction. Generational differences plagued club members. The younger members viewed the original class as elitist and old-fashioned. They wished to take a more active role in the Civil Rights Movement and be more welcoming to the working class by reducing membership fees. Older members resisted change by withholding payments or simply leaving the club. More broadly, integration and wealthy Black suburbanization reduced the centrality of and need for the Pyramid Club. The group officially disbanded in 1963.¹⁵⁹

2.9 Social Realism at the MVOC exhibition

While several styles of art were represented at Fort Huachuca's 1943 art exhibit, many of the pieces may be broadly considered products of the Social Realist movement. The Social Realist movement emerged between WWI and WWII, a time when souring economic conditions and international political upheaval prompted many artists to portray the world as it was. Through Social Realist art, painters, illustrators, and photographers aimed to make their work more relatable to the general public. Not surprisingly, this meant that artists frequently created pieces portraying substandard working conditions or changing social habits, while other pieces offered a social commentary on the role of government, at large, for its part in the economic depression.¹⁶⁰

Social Realist art often attempted to elevate the status of society's marginalized citizens. Consequently, art from this movement portrayed members of the working class as the unsung, but essential, heroes of society. Due to a large-scale transition in labor from agriculture to factory work, art from this period frequently depicts the working class in industrial and urban settings. The worker-hero, in this context, was sometimes portrayed in a stoic or proud manner, as a contributor to a greater good. In

¹⁵⁷ Brigham. 2008. "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts."

¹⁵⁸ Brigham. 2008. "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts."

¹⁵⁹ Gregory. 2010. "Legacy of a Clubhouse."

¹⁶⁰ Museum of Modern Art. n.d. "Social Realism." Art Terms. <https://www.moma.org/collection/terms/social-realism>.

other works, Social Realist artists attempted to illustrate the negative attributes of labor and an overbearing Capitalist system. In such instances, artists typically portrayed a solitary figure, or group of figures, engaged in back-breaking, monotonous, or demoralizing labor.¹⁶¹

During the Great Depression, Social Realist artists received a boost from Federal New Deal programs, beginning with the Public Works of Art Program (PWAP, 1933–1934) and later with the WPA. Many Social Realist artists, considering themselves to be members of the working class they depicted, also formed the Artists' Union during the 1930s, which was associated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations.¹⁶² WPA artists often tended to create works influenced by Social Realism.¹⁶³

Because the Social Realist movement attempted to elevate the status of society's marginalized citizens, artists also created works depicting the triumphs and struggles of racial minorities, especially Black Americans. Some artworks from this period depicted Black Americans engaged in industrial labor, reflecting the fact that many had moved from the South to the cities of the North after the Great Migration. Social Realist artwork, therefore, sometimes depicts Black Americans engaged in industrial pursuits or any number of issues that Black communities faced, ranging from workplace and social discrimination to lynching.¹⁶⁴

Edmond Malnate's *Tobacco Rows*, selected for the Fort Huachuca exhibit, is a good example of art that seeks to show the unnerving side of labor. The central subject, a farmer, trudges through a seemingly endless field of tobacco rows at the end of a long workday. His slouched body conveys a deep sense of exhaustion that may be both temporal and existential (Figure 21). Bryant Pringle's lithograph, *Arc Welder*, depicts its central figure in the act of work. Visual cues from the subject's face, which might have provided clues about his temperament, are obscured by the welder's mask (Figure 22).

¹⁶¹ Art Story, The. 2015. "Summary of Social Realism." Movements. <https://www.theartstory.org/movement/social-realism/>.

¹⁶² The Art Story. 2015. "Summary of Social Realism,"

¹⁶³ Jenkins. 2021. *Black Artists in America: From the Great Depression to Civil Rights*, 21.

¹⁶⁴ The Art Story. 2015. "Summary of Social Realism,"

Figure 21. Edmond Malnate (1916–2003), *Tobacco Rows*, 1941, carborundum mezzotint, 7 1/2 in. × 11 1/4 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 44. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)¹⁶⁵



Not all Social Realist work commented on labor, as is evident from other pieces at the Fort Huachuca exhibit. For example, Raymond Steth's *Patton St. Derelict* and *Debris* show dilapidated urban environs with few signs of life (Figure 23–Figure 24). As an artist, Steth is conventionally associated with the American Scene movement of the early 20th century, an overarching category that contains Social Realism. Depictions of “typical American life and landscape . . . in a naturalistic, descriptive style” characterize the American Scene style.¹⁶⁶ *Patton St. Derelict* and *Debris*, while American Scene pieces in the broadest sense, seem to fall squarely in the Social Realist category. Undoubtedly, these lithographs convey a social commentary about the substandard conditions which

¹⁶⁵ Edmond Malnate, *Tobacco Rows*, 1941, Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed September 16, 2022, <https://philamuseum.org/collection/object/94559>.

¹⁶⁶ “American Scene Painting,” The Art History Archive—Art Movements, accessed November 23, 2022, <http://www.arthistoryarchive.com/arthistory/americanscene/>; African American Registry (AAREG). n.d. “Raymond Steth, Graphic Artist Born,” Today’s Stories. <https://www.aaregistry.org/story/raymond-steth-graphic-artist-born/>, accessed October 15, 2022.

many Americans, particularly Black Americans, faced in the interwar years.

Figure 22. Bryant Pringle (1917–unknown) *Arc Welder*, c. 1940, lithograph, National Gallery of Art, exhibit number 64. (Used with permission from National Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)¹⁶⁷



¹⁶⁷ Bryant Pringle, *Arc Welder*, c. 1940, National Gallery of Art, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.151089.html>.

Figure 23. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Patton St. Derelict*, c. 1935, lithograph, 16 in. × 11 1/2 in., Free Library of Philadelphia, exhibit number 72. (Used with permission from Free Library of Philadelphia. Applicable rights reserved.)¹⁶⁸



¹⁶⁸ Raymond Steth, *Patton St. Derelict*, c. 1935, Free Philadelphia Library digital collections. <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/54052>, accessed December 7, 2022.

Figure 24. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Debris*, c. 1935, etching, 6 1/2 in. × 9 3/4 in., exhibit number 70. (Used with permission from Artnet. Applicable rights reserved.)¹⁶⁹



In contrast, the scene paintings of Allan Rohan Crite attempted to demonstrate that Black Americans of the 1930s cannot be uniformly classified as an economically deprived people, despite the hardships brought on by the Great Depression. Crite hoped that his art, which often depicted middle class street scenes, would become an accepted expression of the Black experience that was as authentic as the working-class perspective found in most Black art at the time.¹⁷⁰ Crite's submission to the Fort Huachuca Art Exhibit, *Shawmut Avenue*, depicts the levity of a hot summer day in a middle-class neighborhood. As throngs of children gather under the refreshing spray of an opened fire hydrant, adults look on from a nearby sidewalk. As a Social Realist painting, this work tells the story of an intergenerational, Depression-era neighborhood that appears to be economically buoyant and alive with activity (Figure 25).¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁹ Raymond Steth. 1935. "Debris, c. 1935." Artnet, accessed December 7, 2022. https://www.artnet.com/artists/raymond-steth/debris-V5oM1otXwFwwcnBRTb_3Vw2.

¹⁷⁰ Caro, J. 2008. "Rooted in the Community: Black Middle Class Identity Performance in the Early Works of Allan Rohan Crite, 1935–1948." PhD Dissertation. University of Texas-Austin 1–41.

¹⁷¹ Allen Rohan Crite, *Shawmut Avenue*, c. 1939, Artnet, accessed December 7, 2022. <https://www.artnet.com/artists/allan-rohan-crite/shawmut-avenue-boston-glMLNvONywWacXJg3A1Tg2>.

Figure 25. Allen Rohan Crite (1910–2007), *Shawmut Avenue*, c. 1939, oil on canvas board, 18 in × 24 in., exhibit number 6. (Used with permission from Artnet. Applicable rights reserved.)



2.9.1 Lew Davis

An instrumental figure in Fort Huachuca's WWII art scene was Lew Davis, a White artist known for his Western landscapes, mining scenes, and mural paintings. Born in the mining town of Jerome, Arizona, on 2 November 1910, Davis exhibited a penchant for art at an early age. However, he was reluctant to express his artistic talents publicly because the profession was viewed derisively in his hometown.¹⁷² Realizing that his opportunities were limited in Arizona, Davis moved to New York City in 1927 to study at the National Academy of Design. There, he principally worked in a realist style, painting figures and still life in a representational manner. Supported by the WPA, Davis returned to Arizona in 1936 and chiefly painted scenes that depicted the toils of mining and life in the copper camps.¹⁷³ Davis became State Supervisor of the Arizona WPA Art Project in the late 1930s and enjoyed a reputation as an accomplished muralist.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷² Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 33.

¹⁷³ Fahlman, B. n.d. "The Copper Kings: Arizona, Utah, and Montana," Willard Marriott Library Special Collections. <https://exhibits.lib.utah.edu/s/mining-the-west/page/copper-kings-2>.

¹⁷⁴ "'Negro Soldier' Mural to be Unveiled at Mt. View," *The Apache Sentinel*; Blackwell et al. 2009. *Built by the WPA-CCC: New Deal Historic Resources on DoD Installations*, DoD Legacy Resource Management Program, Legacy Project Number 07-357, 25. <https://kermitproject.org/newdeal/defense/Booklet.pdf>. The exact date Davis became State Supervisor was not found and included a review of sources including Robbins's biography on Davis, Fahlman's book *New Deal Art in Arizona*, and Newspapers.com.

Throughout the Great Depression, Davis produced works that reflected the hardships of the average American, particularly the working class. One example includes *Eight Figures* (Figure 26). The painting shows seven women sewing in a factory while a standing overseer supervises their work.¹⁷⁵ Davis's painting aligns with the Social Realist tendencies of the era, which often underscored the importance of the working class. In *Eight Figures*, Davis did not glorify labor for its own sake; instead, he represented the average worker in a realistic manner, and did not shy away from depicting the monotony of labor. Significantly, the painting focuses on the faces of the seven laborers, while the head of the overseer is cut off by the frame of the painting. Such an arrangement destines the overseer, a man of high position, to a state of anonymity. To be sure, this painting exemplifies Davis's ambition to dignify the disheartened through art, an approach he maintained in the years to come.¹⁷⁶

Figure 26. Lew Davis (1910–1979), *Eight Figures*, 1935. (Used with permission from Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire. Public domain.)¹⁷⁷



¹⁷⁵ Currier Museum of Art. n.d. "Lew Davis: Eight Figures, 1935." Collection. <https://currier.org/collection/lew-davis/>.

¹⁷⁶ "Lew Davis: Eight Figures," Currier Museum of Art.

¹⁷⁷ "Lew Davis, Eight Figures, 1935," Currier Museum of Art.

By the early 1940s, Davis had earned a positive reputation for his mural-painting abilities, having successfully completed Post Office murals in Los Banos, California, and Marlow, Oklahoma.¹⁷⁸ At the invitation of Post Commander Colonel Edwin Hardy, Davis came to Fort Huachuca in 1942 to create two murals for the Lakeside Officers' Club. These murals were to depict two important events in the history of Fort Huachuca; the founding of the post in 1877, and the surrender of the Apache leader Geronimo.¹⁷⁹ However, while visiting Fort Huachuca, Davis was discouraged to find that morale was low among many of the Black soldiers. Davis attempted to boost morale through art, establishing a silkscreen print studio and a mural painting workshop by mid-1943.¹⁸⁰ At this time, Davis was a private citizen, though he worked closely with the post's enlisted men. With the assistance of three privates—George P. Everett, William I. Scales, and Charlie W. Evans—Davis created at least nine vibrant posters featuring bold colors, smooth matte backgrounds, and eye-catching typography. The posters broadcasted a variety of messages, cautioning soldiers about sexually transmitted diseases, encouraging them to purchase War Bonds, admonishing the spread of rumors, and advising soldiers to take their training seriously (Figure 27–Figure 36).¹⁸¹

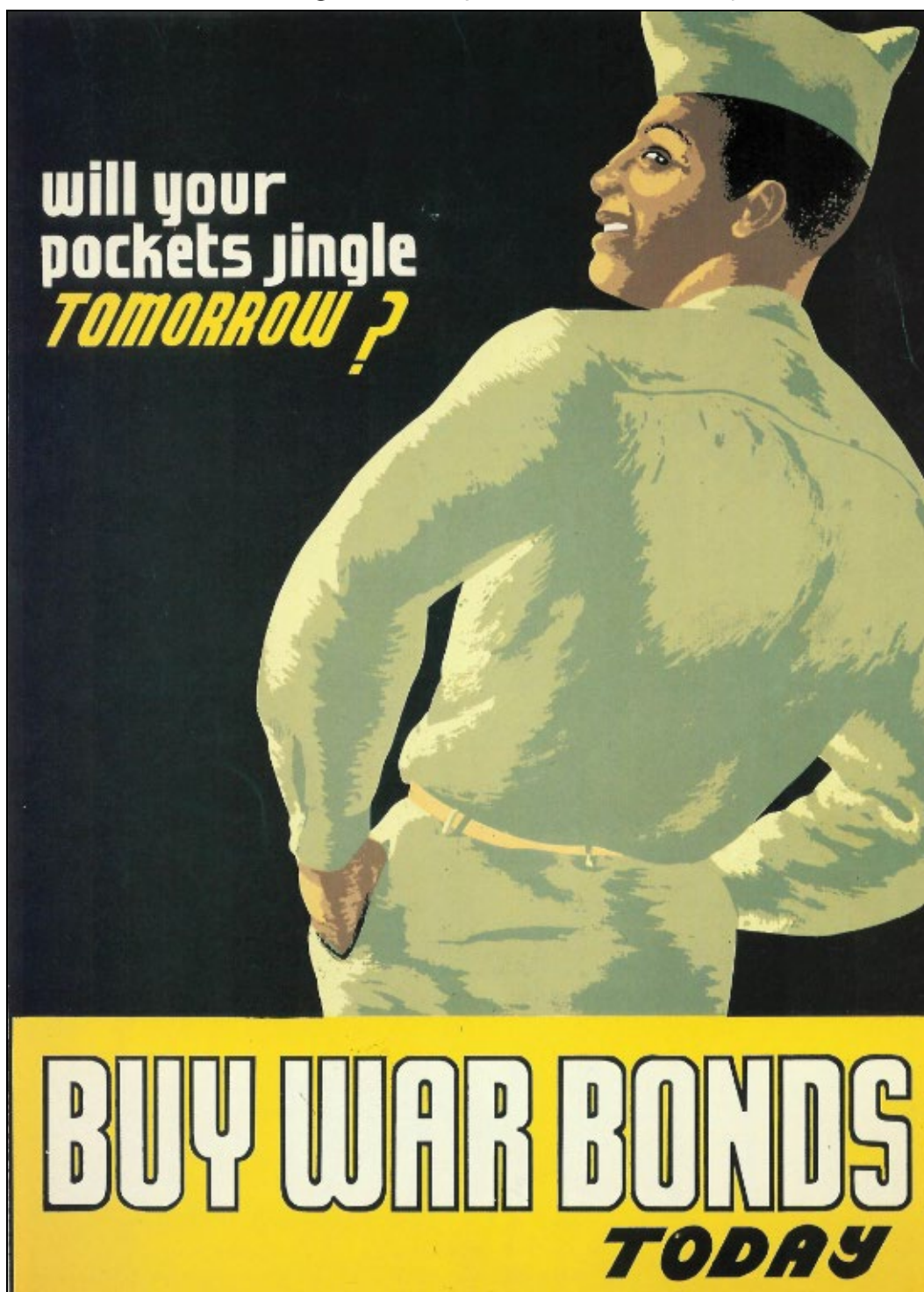
¹⁷⁸ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 30–33.

¹⁷⁹ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 3, 5.

¹⁸⁰ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 29.

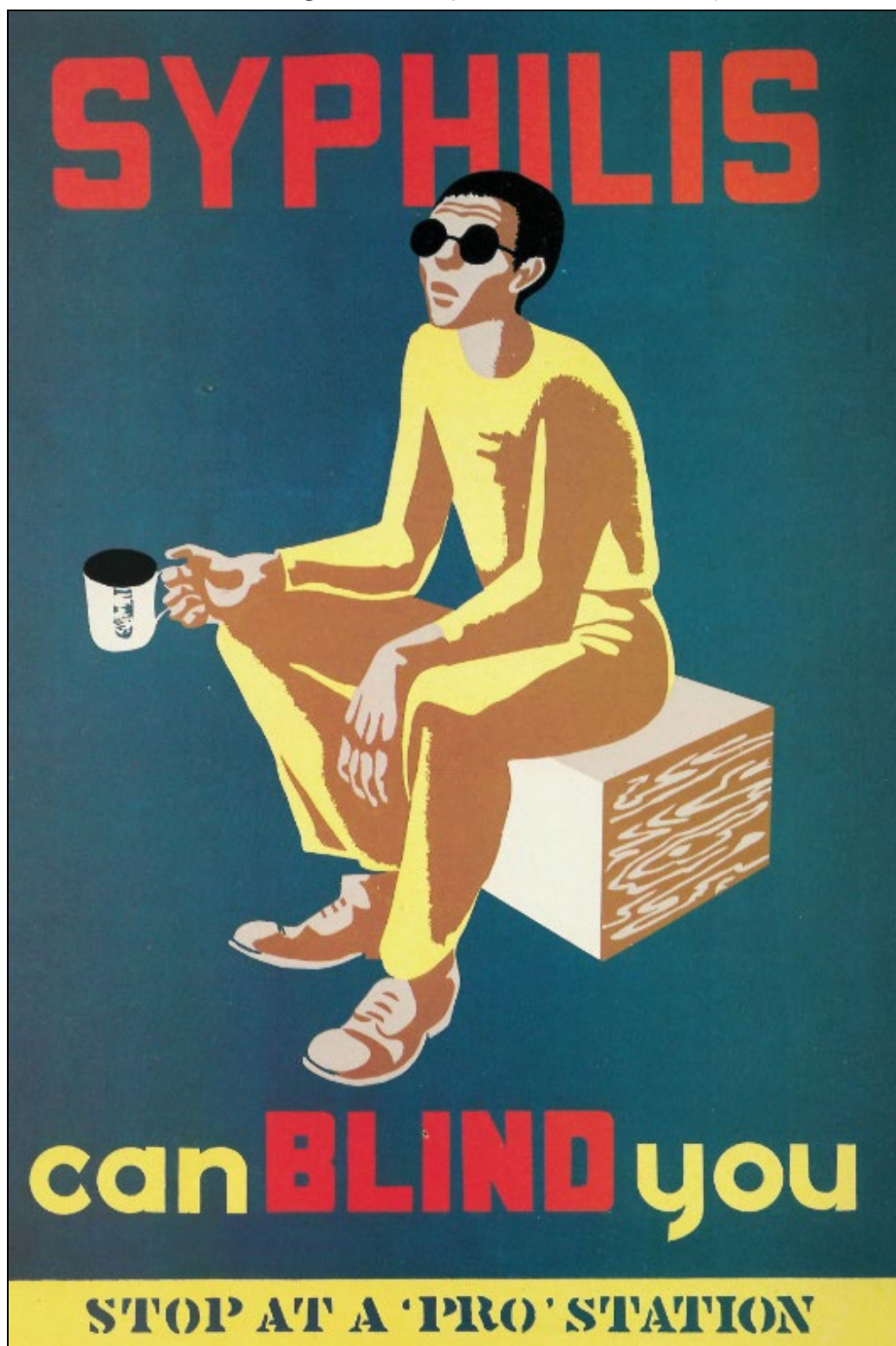
¹⁸¹ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 12–25.

Figure 27. A poster encouraging soldiers to purchase War Bonds. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸²



¹⁸² Lew Davis, "Buy War Bonds Today," c. 1943. Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 28. A poster advising soldiers to get checked for syphilis. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸³



¹⁸³ Lew Davis, "Syphilis Can Blind You," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 29. A poster advising soldiers to get checked for gonorrhea. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸⁴



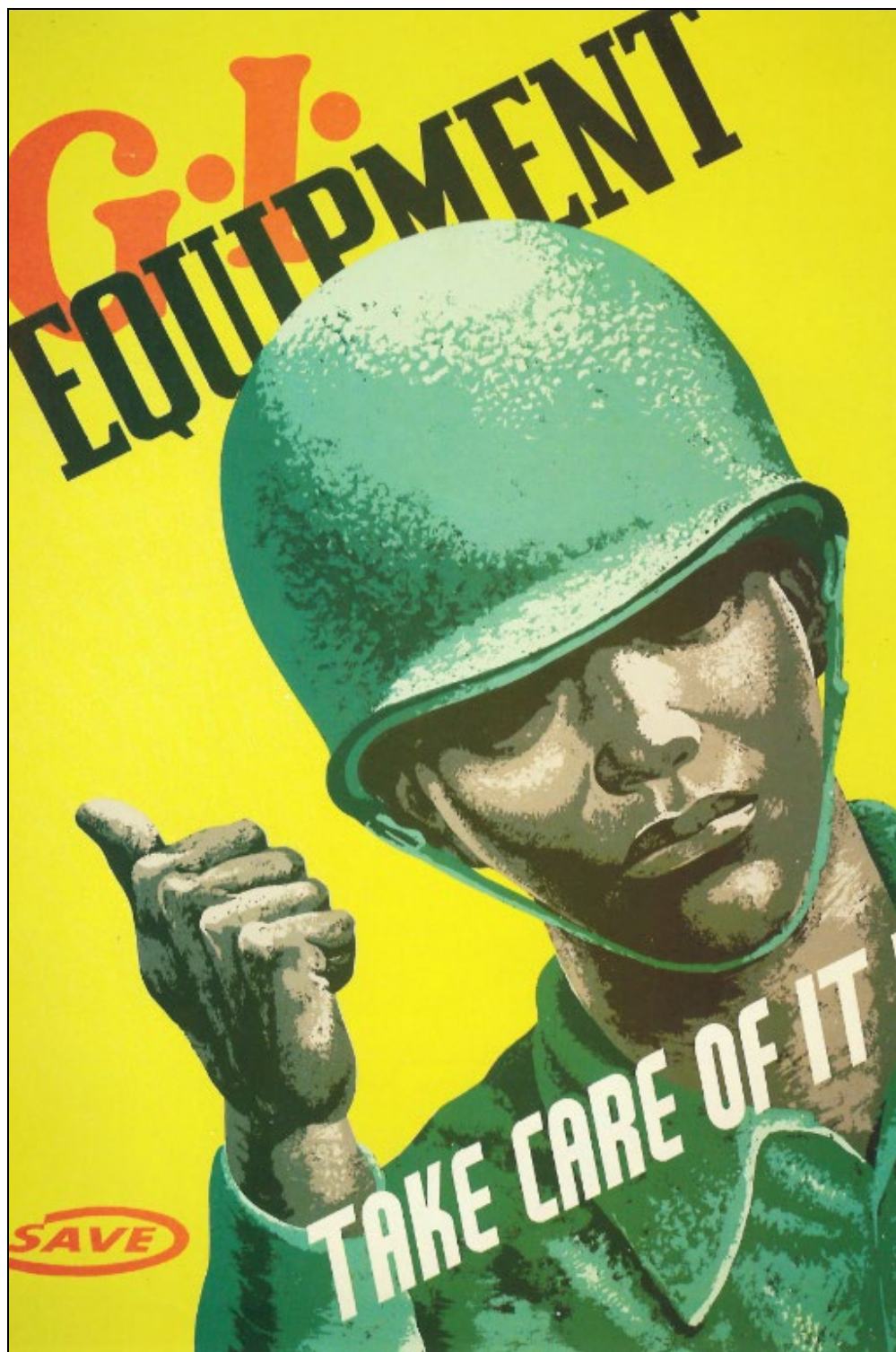
¹⁸⁴ Lew Davis, "Gonorrhea the Crippler," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 30. A poster discouraging the spread of sensitive information. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸⁵



¹⁸⁵ Lew Davis, "Look Who's Listening-Zip Your Lip," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 31. A poster encouraging soldiers to care for their equipment. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸⁶



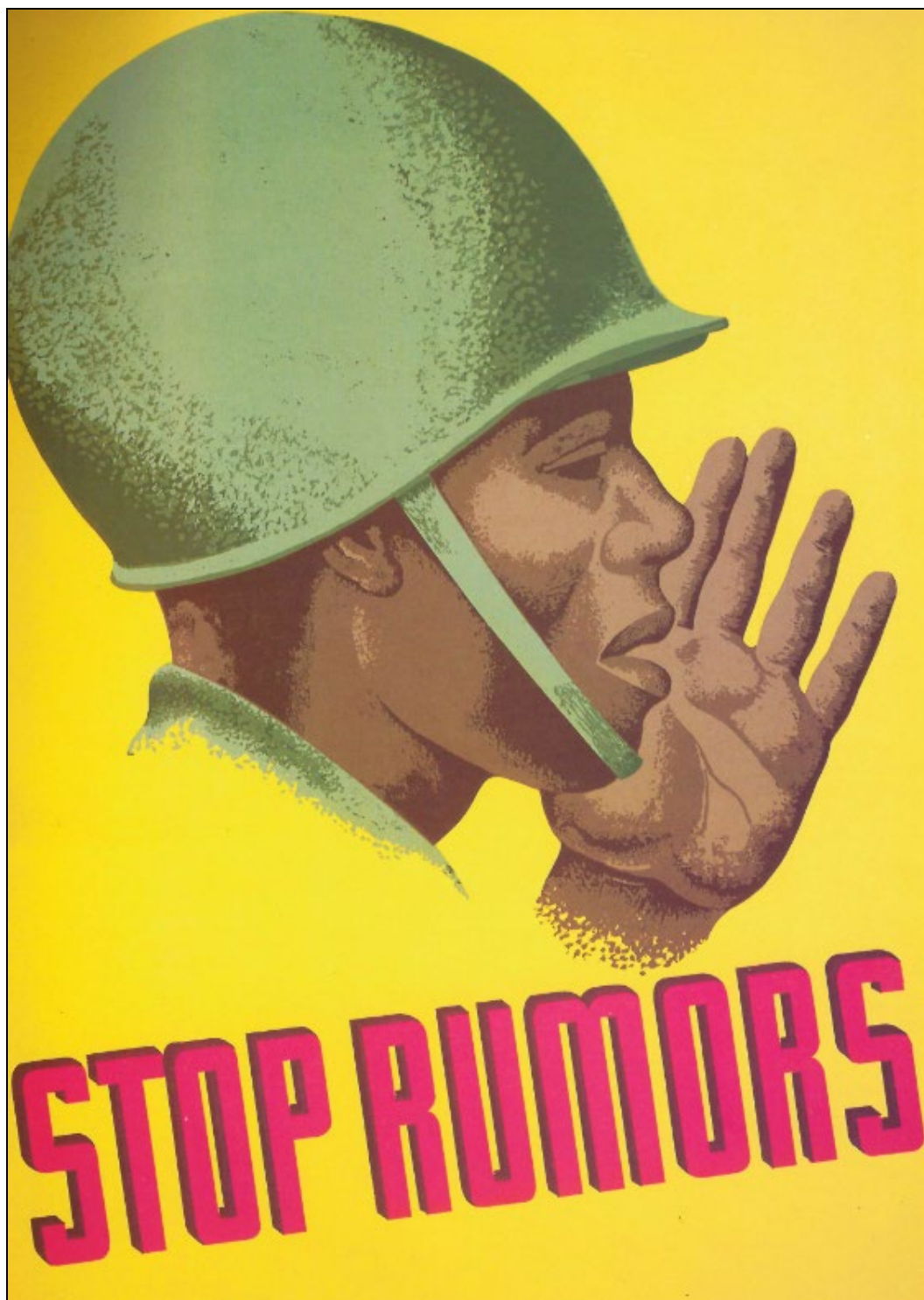
¹⁸⁶ Lew Davis, "G.I. Equipment—Take Care of It!" c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 32. A poster encouraging soldiers not to waste food. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸⁷



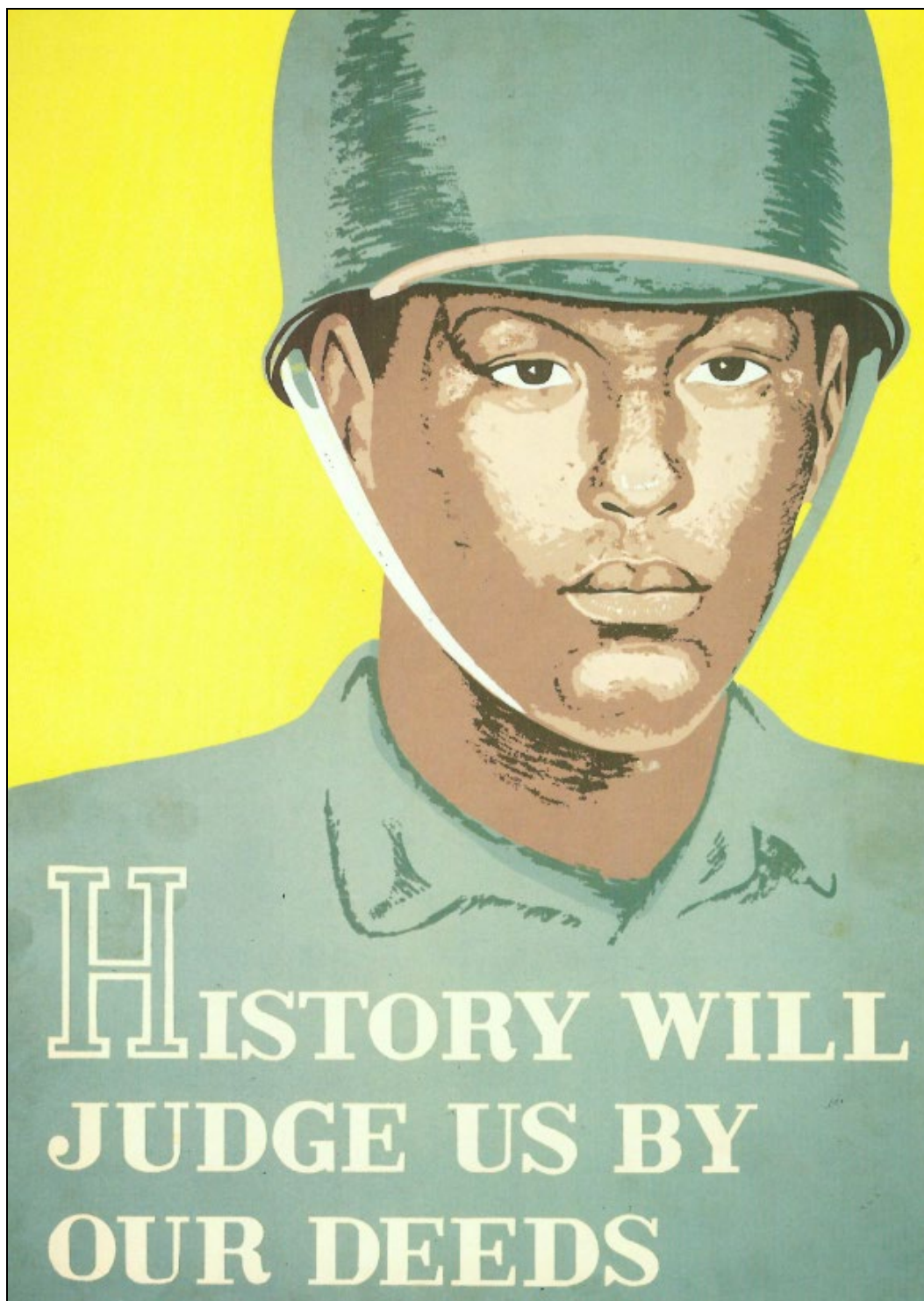
¹⁸⁷ Lew Davis, "If You Waste It...There's Less At Home," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 33. A poster advising soldiers not to spread rumors. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸⁸



¹⁸⁸ Lew Davis, "Stop Rumors," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 34. A poster encouraging Black soldiers to perform honorably. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁸⁹

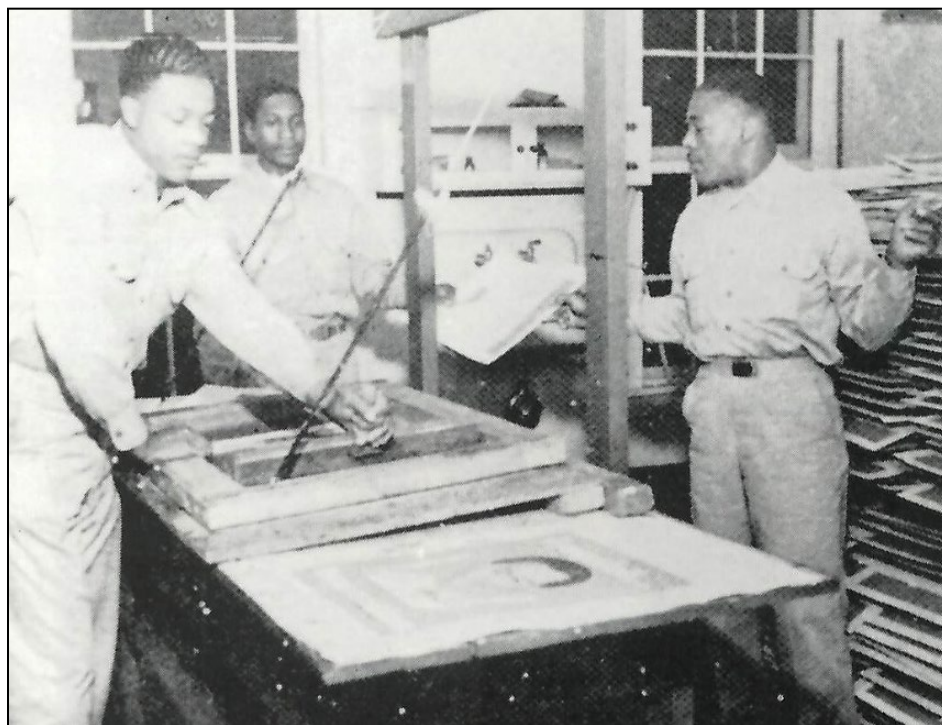


¹⁸⁹ Lew Davis, "History Will Judge Us By Our Deeds," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Figure 35. A poster encouraging soldiers to remember their training during combat. (Image reproduced from Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona. Public domain.)¹⁹⁰



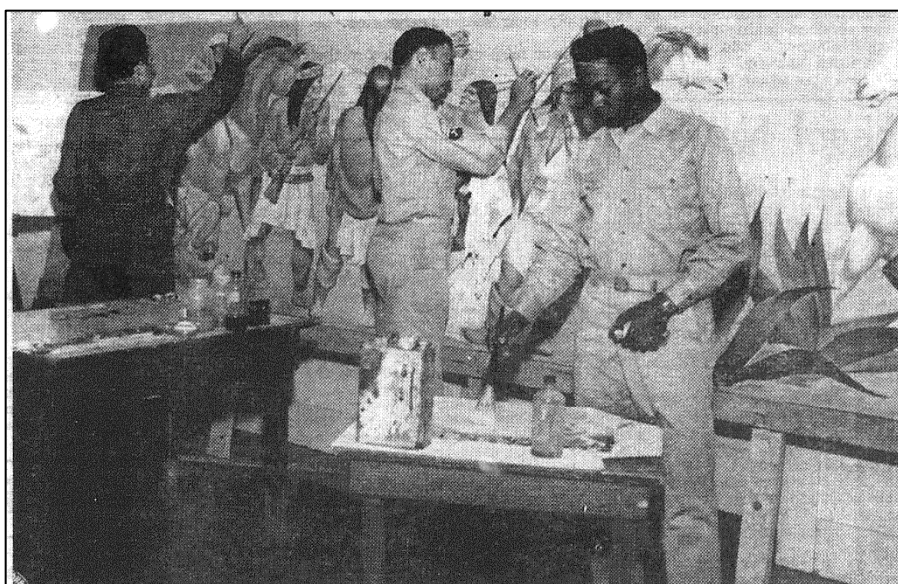
Figure 36. Privates William A. Scales (*left*), Charlie W. Evans (*middle*), and George A. Everett (*right*) work in the silkscreen studio. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Historical Museum. Public domain.)



¹⁹⁰ Lew Davis, "Neglect Your Training--And Risk Your Life," c. 1943, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe, Arizona.

While at Fort Huachuca, Davis also developed a mural painting workshop to instruct budding artists in the finer points of mural composition and finishing. A newspaper photograph from October 1943 shows two students, Thurman Dillard and Ted Shearer, putting finishing touches on “The Surrender of Geronimo,” indicating the workshop had been established before that time (Figure 37). The workshop was beneficial in two ways. First, the assistance provided by other artists on post helped Davis complete his murals for the Lakeside Officers’ Club in a timely manner. Second, Davis’s instruction gave his colleagues skills they could use after leaving the Army.¹⁹¹ One of the artists who took advantage of Davis’s workshop was Thurman Dillard, who was himself a participant in the 1943 Fort Huachuca Art Exhibit. Through Davis’s mentorship, Dillard refined his own skills and made connections that eventually led him to earn a master’s degree in mural painting at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.¹⁹²

Figure 37. Photograph of Thurman Dillard (*right*) helping with Davis’s mural, *The Surrender of Geronimo*, in 1943. (Image reproduced from the *Apache Sentinel*. Public domain.)¹⁹³



Two enlisted men, T/5th Ted Shearer of the 92nd Division Headquarters company, and Cpl. Thurman Dillard of the Detachment Quartermaster Corps, had a hand in putting the finishing touches on one of the two historical murals that were unveiled at the Officers' Lakeside Mess last Saturday afternoon. The mural, which portrays the surrender of Geronimo, hangs above the entrance doorway of the Lakeside Mess' ballroom. Shown here with Muralist Lew Davis are the two talented enlisted men at work getting the mural into final shape. Shearer, who comes from New York, is the author of nationally-featured cartoons and commercial drawings and is staff cartoonist for the "Buffalo," 92nd Division publication. A native of St. Louis, Dillard expresses himself rather amazingly in both paintings and poetry.

¹⁹¹ Fahlman. 2009. *New Deal Art in Arizona*, 145.

¹⁹² Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 29.

¹⁹³ Apache Sentinel. 1943. "Putting on the Finishing Touches." *The Apache Sentinel*, October 13, 1943. <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32126>.

To ensure that he could continue operating the mural workshop and silkscreen studio, Davis enlisted in the Army with the intention of being permanently stationed at Fort Huachuca.¹⁹⁴ He left Arizona shortly before Christmas, 1943, to begin boot camp. His formal induction took place at Fort MacArthur, California, on 10 January 1944. He returned to Fort Huachuca on 19 January 1944, as Private Lew Davis.¹⁹⁵ By June of that year, Davis was promoted to Sergeant.¹⁹⁶ Due to segregation statutes in the Armed Forces, he needed authorization to work as a servicemember at Fort Huachuca. In a letter to Major General F.H. Osborn, the Army's Morale Services Division Director, Colonel Hardy explained, "When his [Davis's] time for induction arrived [in late 1943], I arranged to have him assigned to this station which required special permission in view of the fact that he is a white man."¹⁹⁷ Davis did not remember encountering any obstacles, remarking that "General Marshall approved a hundred percent . . . and if any trouble came up he would take responsibility."¹⁹⁸

In 1944, Davis began work on a third mural at Fort Huachuca, which he planned to display in the MVOC. This mural consisted of a panoramic series of five individual panels which, when viewed collectively, depicted the role of Black Americans in five of the country's most significant wars: the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and WWI.¹⁹⁹ Entitled *The Negro in America's Wars*, the mural debuted to much fanfare at the MVOC on 20 August 1944 (Figure 38). At its dedication, the mural was unveiled one panel at a time, and each panel was accompanied with a script written and orated by celebrated New York playwright Theodore Browne, who happened to be stationed at Fort Huachuca (Appendix C). Additionally, the presentation was enriched with the vocal talents of Lawrence Whisonant.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁴ Apache Sentinel. 1944. "Mr. Lew Davis Returns to Fort as Private Davis."

¹⁹⁵ Apache Sentinel. 1944. "Mr. Lew Davis Returns to Fort as Private Davis."

¹⁹⁶ Apache Sentinel. 1944. "An Open Letter to Spe. Ser. Members," *Apache Sentinel*, June 23, 1944. <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32162>.

¹⁹⁷ Colonel Hardy to Major General F.H. Osborn, September 1, 1944.

¹⁹⁸ Lew Davis, quoted in Robbins, *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 21.

¹⁹⁹ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 3.

²⁰⁰ "Script by Pvt. Theodore Browne Highlights Unveiling of 'Negro Soldier' Mural," *Apache Sentinel*, August 25, 1944, Arizona Memory Project, <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32171>.

Figure 38. Lew Davis's mural *The Negro in America's Wars, 1944*. (Image reproduced from the Apache Sentinel. Public domain.)²⁰¹



Davis's contributions are notable considering that he, as a White man, helped establish a robust art program at Fort Huachuca and painted a five-part mural to recognize the wartime achievements of Black Americans. According to art historian Betsy Fahlman, "Few white artists were interested in Black history during this period . . . That the Fort Huachuca murals were done by a white artist in an era of rigid racial segregation makes them extraordinary celebrations of Black history."²⁰² Besides his desire to boost morale at Fort Huachuca, Davis did not provide any additional reason for establishing artistic enterprises at the installation. Thurman Dillard, a student in Davis's mural workshop and one of the artists in the 1943 exhibition, also wondered about Davis's decision to stay at Fort Huachuca. Over forty years later, Dillard recalled, "During the war, the Army was segregated, and Lew enlisted in a Black outfit. I don't know why, he never told me why."²⁰³

Later in life, Davis stated that he had sympathy for minority groups, such as Black Americans and Native Americans, because he believed artists were also members of a minority group.²⁰⁴ In the copper mining town where he grew up, Davis recalled that "being an artist was associated with being a sissy," an attitude that made him self-conscious about his profession the rest of his life.²⁰⁵ As both an artist and as someone who grew up with people from non-White groups during his childhood, Davis reflected, "I felt I understood something about minorities because I was one. And I knew Indians well; I'd lived among the Hopis since I was very young. I knew Mexicans and all that sort of thing. I knew what were called

²⁰¹ Apache Sentinel. 1943. "Putting on the Finishing Touches."

²⁰² Fahlman, *New Deal Art in Arizona*, 145.

²⁰³ Carolyn C. Robbins interview with Thurman Dillard, June 23, 1989, quoted in Robbins, *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 29.

²⁰⁴ Robbins, *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 5.

²⁰⁵ Davis, quoted in Barbara Perlman, "In Celebration of Lew Davis," *Scottsdale Progress*, Scottsdale, Arizona, July 21, 1979, 5.

minority groups and I didn't see why the Negro would be any different."²⁰⁶

Following his work at Fort Huachuca, Davis remained an active painter. Like other artists, Davis's style evolved considerably after WWII and became increasingly abstract.²⁰⁷ Working from a remote desert home in Arizona, Davis was inspired to create nature-based works exhibiting vivid colors. In his later years, his paintings became less representational of physical reality and were intended to evoke emotion through carefully organized shapes. Davis continued producing art until his death in 1978.²⁰⁸ Reflecting on Davis's life, art historian Carolyn Robbins remarks,

Not only did he paint the copper mine with an unparalleled perception, he also recorded the proud history of the Black American soldier, finally concluding his life by celebrating the wonder and beauty of the desert and its inhabitants . . . Davis cultivated, inspired and nurtured the arts in Arizona, helping to build a community that today values and enjoys its artists and creations.²⁰⁹

2.9.2 Colonel Edwin N. Hardy

Wartime Post Commander of Fort Huachuca Colonel Edwin Hardy was born in Bells, Tennessee, in 1887. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1911 before serving with the 8th US Cavalry Regiment in the Philippines until 1914.²¹⁰ During WWI, Hardy was a member of the 6371 Reserve Army Officers and acted as a domestic training officer.²¹¹ He was stationed at Fort Grant, Arizona, near the Mexican border as Captain of

²⁰⁶ Lew Davis, quoted in Abe Chanin and Mildred Chanin, "Lew Davis: Arizona for the Artist," *This Land These Voices* (Flagstaff: Northland Press, 1977), 233–234, quoted in Robbins, *Lew Davis: "The Negro in America's Wars,"* 5.

²⁰⁷ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis, "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, 55.

²⁰⁸ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis, "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, 56-60.

²⁰⁹ Robbins and Davis. 1990. *Lew Davis, "The Negro in America's Wars" and Other Major Paintings*, 60.

²¹⁰ Steward, H. D. 1963. "A Real Cavalryman 'Fades Away.'" *The San Diego Union*, April 29, 1963. ELEC: 6901, 228–01, Private Collection of COL EDWIN N. HARDY, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

²¹¹ Untitled Essay, Michaels Collection, Military Affairs Committee-Bisbee Chamber of Commerce, Miscellaneous Years. Fort Huachuca Museum, 350.

Troop L of the 17th Cavalry. His troop patrolled the border in the case of disturbances related to the Mexican Revolution.²¹²

Hardy's leadership and diplomatic qualities did not go unnoticed in his early career. Shortly after marrying Charlotte Reeder in 1919, the couple traveled to South America with the American Legation.²¹³ Hardy was chosen to act as military attaché in Quito, Ecuador, and Bogota, Colombia, though little record of his experience there remains.²¹⁴ Edwin and Charlotte returned to the United States in 1921 and settled at Fort Leavenworth for a short period. There, Hardy studied at the Cavalry General Staff School, graduating as a major in 1923.²¹⁵ He was then stationed at Fort Riley, where he lived with his wife and two children until 1932.²¹⁶

Hardy had a deep love for horses and the cavalry and hoped to receive command of a cavalry combat unit during his career. In 1932, he was pleased to be named Commander of Fort Robinson Depot in Nebraska.²¹⁷ During his five years as Commander, he oversaw horse remount processing and hosted a CCC camp and hospital.²¹⁸ Hardy was then transferred to the Quartermaster Corps and acted as Chief of Remount until 1942.²¹⁹ The last commander of the US Army Remount Service, he was described as "through and through a cavalryman" and was saddened by the mechanization of "the branch to which he had devoted a lifetime." With horses being phased-out of combat, Hardy's dream of commanding a traditional cavalry unit never came true. Instead, he was assigned as post commander of Fort Huachuca in April 1942.²²⁰

²¹² Graham Guardian. 1917. "Our Boys in Khaki," *The Graham Guardian*, Dec. 21, 1917. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/78217442>.

²¹³ *Special Passport Applications, 1914–1925*, "Charlotte H.R. Hardy," August 16, 1920, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1804088:1174>, accessed November 27, 2022.

²¹⁴ *US Passport Applications, 1795–1925*, "Emergency Passport Application, Edwin N Hardy," January 10, 1920, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2170977:1174>, accessed November 23, 2022.

²¹⁵ Smith H. A. 1924. "Annual Report of the Commandant: The General Service Schools, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1923–1924," Combined Arms Research Library, accessed November 23, 2022. <https://cgsc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p4013coll4/id/438>.

²¹⁶ 1930 Census, "Edwin N Hardy," Fort Riley, Kansas, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/32856994:6224>, accessed November 23, 2022.

²¹⁷ Untitled Essay, 360, Michaels Collection.

²¹⁸ History Nebraska. n.d. "Brief History of Fort Robinson." Fort Robinson Stories. https://history.nebraska.gov/visit_section/brief-history-fort-robinson/.

²¹⁹ Untitled Essay, 360, Michaels Collection.

²²⁰ Steward. 1963. "A Real Cavalryman 'Fades Away.'"

Before Hardy's arrival, the cities surrounding Fort Huachuca—Tucson, Tombstone, and Bisbee—experienced growing racial tension and hostility towards the post's Black servicepeople. The challenging situation “demanded a soldier and a diplomat.”²²¹ Hardy's experience as a military attaché made him an attractive candidate. He was seen as particularly well qualified due to his federal work with people of various cultures and ethnicities, both in the Philippines and South America.²²²

Hardy was disheartened by Fort Huachuca's state of affairs at the time of his arrival. He observed poor facilities, disrespect of Black Soldiers off-post, a general lack of military discipline, and issues with gambling, alcohol, and prostitution in the neighboring town, Fry.²²³ Col. Hardy set to work to make the fort a desirable living space, establishing various recreational programs and facilities, including athletic fields, movie theaters, and art and academic courses. Neglected military routine was reinstated and instantly raised troop morale.²²⁴ Hardy also approached a group of Black businessmen from Chicago regarding funding for facility development in Fry. Truman K. Gibson, Sr., Truman K. Gibson, Jr., Charles Jackson, George Bynum, and a Mr. Robinson visited Fry with Hardy in July 1942, and, in consultation with their associates in Chicago, volunteered to sponsor Fry's transformation into a respectable entertainment area, complete with shops, beer halls, and a USO center.²²⁵ The amusement center in Fry, locally known as “Green Top,” was designed by well-known Black architect Paul Williams who had graduated from the University of Southern California in 1919.²²⁶ William Edouard Scott, acclaimed Black artist and 1907 graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) painted seven murals for the interior titled *New Peace with Victory*.²²⁷ The amusement center opened on Friday, 26 March 1943 (Figure 39).

²²¹ Untitled Essay, 359, Michaels Collection.

²²² Untitled Essay, 361, Michaels Collection.

²²³ Untitled Essay, 346, Michaels Collection.

²²⁴ Untitled Essay, 361, Michaels Collection.

²²⁵ Smith, C.C. 1981. *Fort Huachuca: the Story of a Frontier Post*, 305; Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army. 1942. “Office Notes, Subject: Development of Fry, Arizona, with Negro capital,” July 9, 1942, RG 107: Box 208, Entry 188. Office of the Assistant Secretary of War Civilian Aide to the Secretary, 1940–1947. College Park, MD: Fort Huachuca Collection-National Archives and Records Administration.

²²⁶ Arizona Republic. 1943. “New \$100,000 Recreation Center Will Be Dedicated At Huachuca.” *Arizona Republic*, March 26, 1943. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/117247894>.

²²⁷ Arizona Daily Star. 1943. “Huachuca Recreation Center Will Have Opening Saturday.” *Arizona Daily Star*, Mar. 26, 1943. Collection of Henry F. Hauser Museum, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Figure 39. Arizona Governor Sidney Osborne speaking at the dedication of the Fry amusement center in front of one of William E. Scott's murals titled *New Peace with Victory*, 26 March 1943 (Used with permission from Henry F. Hauser Museum. Applicable rights reserved).



Still during his first year as post commander, Hardy came under fire for the announcement that the MVOC would be a segregated club for Black officers at Fort Huachuca. In an interview with the *Pittsburgh Courier*, Hardy made it clear that the decision lay in the hands of the War Department, which “right or wrong” had provided around \$150,000 to provide for two segregated clubs. The article alleged that money would be distributed evenly between the clubs.²²⁸ In reality, the Lakeside Officers’ Club was completed at a cost of \$251,868, while only \$78,648 was expended for the MVOC.²²⁹

Because documents detailing construction authorization and appropriations have never been found, it is unclear if the MVOC was originally built as a Black officers’ club. In part, this uncertainty stems from the fact that the MVOC was built according to the precepts of a standard service club plan. A

²²⁸ Bolden, F. E. 1942. “Separate Officers’ Clubs to Operate at Ft. Huachuca.” *The Pittsburgh Courier*, July 23, 1942. ELEC: 6901, 228-01, Private Collection of COL EDWIN N. HARDY, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

²²⁹ “Facility No. 66050,” Real Property Record Card, Real Property Office, Master Planning Division, Fort Huachuca, Arizona; “Facility No. 43002,” Real Property Record Card, Real Property Office, Master Planning Division, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

directive ordering the creation of segregated officers' clubs for Black and White officers, authorized by the office of the post commander at Fort Huachuca on 4 July 1942, was issued while the Lakeside Officers' Club and the MVOC were already under construction. It is possible that the MVOC was originally intended to be a service club, and Lakeside Officers' Club was built for Black and White officers. Alternatively, officials at Fort Huachuca may have intended to create two officers' clubs at Lakeside and the MVOC which would be open to both Black and White officers but decided to segregate the unfinished clubs after the official directive was issued in July 1942. It is also possible that officials at Fort Huachuca intended to create two separate, segregated officers' clubs at Lakeside and the MVOC from the earliest planning stages.²³⁰

Though unable to override the War Department's decision, Hardy was remembered as "an effective administrator who treated his soldiers with as much fairness as an unfair situation would permit."²³¹ He contacted Lew Davis to organize the creation of historical murals for both officers' clubs and supported the formation of the silkscreen print workshop, which created instructional posters depicting Black servicepeople.²³² With Davis's assistance, Col. Hardy also played an active role in the coordination of the 1943 Black artist exhibition.²³³

Col. Hardy completed his assignment at Fort Huachuca in July 1945 and remained near the post for the rest of his life. He spent his retirement with his family in the Scarlet Gate Ranch in the Huachuca Mountains.²³⁴ In 1963, Hardy died of heart disease at the Fort Huachuca Army Hospital and is buried at the post cemetery.²³⁵

2.9.3 Other prominent artists who attended the 1943 exhibition

The following individuals—Hale Woodruff, Vernon Winslow, and Richmond Barthé—were prominent Black artists who were invited to speak at the dedication of the 1943 Fort Huachuca art exhibit. However, they did

²³⁰ Smith et. al. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club*, 62–72.

²³¹ Rogers, W. L. 2006. "Colonel Edwin N. Hardy." *Arizona Capitol Times*, Nov. 17, 2006. <https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2006/11/17/colonel-edwin-n-hardy/>.

²³² Untitled Essay, 363.

²³³ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet.

²³⁴ Rogers. 2006. "Colonel Edwin N. Hardy."

²³⁵ Arizona Death Record. 1963. "Edwin Noel Hardy," May 1, 1963. Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/617252:8704>, accessed November 24, 2022.

not have any of their works exhibited at the event, so they are not included with the rest of the artists in Chapter 3. Brief biographies of these individuals are provided below.

2.9.3.1 *Hale Woodruff*

Painter and muralist Hale Woodruff was born in Cairo, Illinois, in 1900. At a young age, Woodruff and his mother moved to Nashville, where they boarded with a relative while he attended school.²³⁶ Woodruff remained in Nashville through his high school years. He first engaged with the arts during this time, becoming a political cartoonist for his school newspaper.²³⁷

After completing his secondary education, Woodruff relocated to Indianapolis. He continued illustrating professionally for a local Black newspaper, supplementing his work as a café porter.²³⁸ In 1921, he became an office secretary for Indianapolis' Black YMCA.²³⁹ The institution boasted one of the largest member populations in the country and held significant influence in the Black community.²⁴⁰ There, Hale was a part of a socially and politically active organization that drew in many prominent Black figures. His immersion in conversations regarding civil advancement and welfare undoubtedly informed his later art and action.

While living in Indianapolis, Woodruff pursued a career in art. He attended the John Herron Art Institute and participated in his first public showing, the Indiana Artists' Exhibition, in 1923.²⁴¹ It was at the Herron Institute that Woodruff first encountered African art. He developed a deep academic interest in the culture and style through Carl Einstein's

²³⁶ 1910 Census. 1910. "Hale Woodruff." Nashville, Tennessee. Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/129221526:7884>, accessed November 23, 2022.

²³⁷ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. "Woodruff, Hale (1900–1980)." Artists. <https://thejohnsoncollection.org/hale-woodruff/>.

²³⁸ 1920 Census. 1920. "H A Woodruff." Indianapolis, Indiana. Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/24296661:6061>, accessed November 23, 2022.

²³⁹ US City Directories, 1822–1995. "Indianapolis, Indiana, City Directory, 1921." Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/651810936:2469>, accessed November 23, 2022.

²⁴⁰ Beckley, L. 2018. "Monster Meetings at the Senate Avenue YMCA." Indiana Historical Bureau (blog). <https://blog.history.in.gov/monster-meetings-at-the-senate-avenue-ymca/>.

²⁴¹ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Hale Woodruff." Art + Artists. <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/hale-woodruff-5477>.

1921 publication *Afrikanische Plastik*, given to him by a German classmate.²⁴² The influence of African art can be seen in his later works.

Woodruff's art also exhibits a blend of European styles, developed during a four-year period in France. In 1928, Woodruff won a financial award for a submission in a Harmon Foundation exhibition, which he used to travel to Paris for study at the Académie Moderne and Académie Scandinave.²⁴³ Cubist and post-Impressionist motifs can be seen in many of his pieces, and the color and depth of his landscape works specifically show Cézanne's influence.²⁴⁴ While in Paris, Woodruff remained engaged with the Black art movement through his association with Alain Locke.²⁴⁵

Shortly after his return to the United States in August of 1931, Atlanta University offered Woodruff a teaching position. By the end of September, the artist had settled in Georgia and taken charge of the University art department (Figure 40).²⁴⁶ He personally instructed painting and drawing courses that were open to students from all of Atlanta's Black colleges and aided in fine arts program development at the smaller institutions.²⁴⁷ In 1942, Woodruff founded the Atlanta University Art Annuals, which allowed students to display their work on a national stage and view works by famous Black artists. The Annual ran until 1970 and had a strong positive impact on Black art in the American South, leaving a large collection at Atlanta University.²⁴⁸

²⁴² African American Registry (AAREG). n.d. "Hale Woodruff, Artist Born." Today's Stories. <https://aaregistry.org/story/five-decades-of-greatness-in-art-hale-woodruff/>.

²⁴³ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Hale Woodruff."

²⁴⁴ Metropolitan Museum of Art. n.d. "The Card Players, 1930," The Collection. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/675873>.

²⁴⁵ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. "Woodruff, Hale (1900–1980)."

²⁴⁶ Rothstein, Arthur, photographer. *Untitled photo, possibly related to: Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia. The painter Hale Woodruff*. United States Atlanta Fulton County Georgia, 1942, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017767783/>.

²⁴⁷ Atlanta Constitution, The. 1931. "Hale Woodruff Joins Staff of Atlanta U." *The Atlanta Constitution*, September 29, 1931. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/398224734>.

²⁴⁸ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. "Woodruff, Hale (1900–1980)."

Figure 40. Hale Woodruff in 1942. (Image reproduced from Library of Congress. Public domain.)



Woodruff continued honing his own skills during his time in Atlanta. In 1938, he traveled to Mexico City to study muralism with Diego Rivera. This experience was formative for Woodruff's career and led directly to his most famous work: the 1939–1942 *Amistad* mural series.²⁴⁹ The six-mural collection was produced for Talladega College in Alabama and depicted scenes of Black history in a thematic journey from enslavement to freedom and sociopolitical agency. In the 1940s, Georgia landscapes and scenes of rural Black life dominated his work. His inclusion of the mundane and structures representing agrarian poverty led him to refer to his style as the “Outhouse School.”²⁵⁰

Woodruff's impact on Southern Black art education, his powerful depictions of Black life, and his friendship with Alain Locke earned him national acclaim in the art community. Likely for these reasons, he was selected to aid in the Fort Huachuca exhibition. Though he did not present his own art, he delivered an address entitled “Art in Wartime” during the 1943 exhibition dedication ceremony.²⁵¹

²⁴⁹ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. “Hale Woodruff.”

²⁵⁰ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. “Hale Woodruff,”

²⁵¹ “Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists,” Pamphlet.

A few years after his involvement with art at Fort Huachuca, Woodruff moved to New York City to teach at New York University. He taught there for over twenty years, retiring in 1968. During that time, Woodruff co-founded the Spiral organization, a collective that considered the artists' role in the Civil Rights Movement. The group was first formed in 1963 to organize artist travel to the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. For two years, the Spiral met to discuss politics, social justice, and aesthetics before disbanding in 1965. Woodruff's association with the Spiral and NYU inspired him to explore abstraction in his art and kept him deeply engaged with the Black art movement.²⁵²

The quality and cultural impact of Woodruff's work was recognized during his lifetime and beyond. Two solo retrospective exhibitions were held during his life: at New York University in 1967 and at Harlem Studio Museum in 1979.²⁵³ Woodruff died in New York City in 1980. His art remains in several acclaimed institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art.²⁵⁴

2.9.3.2 *Vernon Winslow*

Vernon Winslow was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1911, where his father was employed as a sign company foreman.²⁵⁵ Vernon's father died during his early teenage years, and the family relocated to Chicago. There, Winslow worked as a messenger for a local oil company.²⁵⁶ He developed an interest in painting during his childhood and sought to study art. In an interview, Winslow recalled being told he would not be accepted into any private art schools due to his race; however, he was invited to study at the SAIC on scholarship.²⁵⁷ He graduated with a degree in advertising design.²⁵⁸

²⁵² Bubbins, H. 2018. "Spiral Group: From Greenwich Village to the Brooklyn Museum." Village Preservation (blog). <https://www.villagepreservation.org/2018/11/02/spiral-group-from-greenwich-village-to-the-brooklyn-museum/>.

²⁵³ African American Registry (AAREG). n.d. "Hale Woodruff, Artist Born."

²⁵⁴ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. "Woodruff, Hale (1900–1980)."

²⁵⁵ 1920 Census. 1920. "Vernon Winslow." Dayton, Ohio. Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21515384:6061>, accessed Nov. 23, 2022.

²⁵⁶ 1930 Census. 1930. "Vernon Winslow." Chicago, Illinois. Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/85321983:6224>, accessed Nov. 23, 2022.

²⁵⁷ Vernon Winslow, Interview by Winifred Stoelting, May 27, 1977. Atlanta University. <https://radar.auctr.edu/islandora/object/auc.062%3A0017>.

²⁵⁸ Pittsburgh Courier. 1949. "First Race Disc Jockey Debuts in N.O." *The Pittsburgh Courier*, June 11, 1949. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/113011383>.

During his studies, Winslow heard about Hale Woodruff's school of teaching in Atlanta. He was intrigued by Woodruff's "international quality" and enrolled at Morehouse College in hopes of studying under the master painter.²⁵⁹ At the time, Woodruff was an instructor at Atlanta University, though he oversaw the development of art programs at the neighboring Morehouse and Spelman Colleges. Winslow was able to study with Woodruff during his time as a student, and greatly admired Woodruff's artistic talent and capability as a teacher.²⁶⁰

In the meantime, Winslow developed a personal interest in education. He taught an art class at the Spelman laboratory high school during his time as a student at Morehouse and later moved to New Orleans to pursue a master's degree in education from Tulane University.²⁶¹ By the time of the Fort Huachuca exhibition, Winslow held a full-time position as an associate professor of art at Dillard University in New Orleans.²⁶² He taught courses in paint, design, mass media, and art marketing.²⁶³ Likely due to his personal success and association with Woodruff, Winslow was selected to deliver a presentation entitled "The Negro in Art" at the 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition.²⁶⁴

Winslow was a commanding speaker and came to be known for his voice. After WWII, he turned to radio as a second source of income with the growing popularity of "race music" on White mainstream stations. Black people, however, were not permitted to announce on radio even as Black music gained traction. Winslow was hired by a New Orleans radio station to write scripts and coach the station's White announcers to use lingo and tone that would appeal to Black audiences.²⁶⁵

The radio station gained popularity through Winslow's efforts, though he was unable to take credit for them at the time. One night in 1949, Winslow was fired for taking the air in the absence of the usual announcer. He

²⁵⁹ Vernon Winslow, Interviewed by Winifred Stoelting, May 27, 1977.

²⁶⁰ Vernon Winslow, Interviewed by Winifred Stoelting, May 27, 1977.

²⁶¹ Clapp J. 2022. "Tune Into Recordings of Vernon 'Dr. Daddy-O' Winslow, New Orleans' First Black Radio DJ." *Gambit*, Feb. 2, 2022, <https://www.nola.com/gambit/music/article>.

²⁶² New York Age, The. 1944. "Ft. Huachuca Dedicated Many Recreational Centers," *The New York Age*, January 15, 1944. <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/40810604/>.

²⁶³ Vernon Winslow, Interviewed by Winifred Stoelting, May 27, 1977.

²⁶⁴ "Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists," Pamphlet.

²⁶⁵ Clapp. 2022. "Tune Into Recordings of Vernon 'Dr. Daddy-O' Winslow, New Orleans' First Black Radio DJ."

protested the station's actions in his *Louisiana Weekly* column, criticizing the co-option of Black music without allowing any Black voice representation. In response to his article, several Black advertisers also left the station.²⁶⁶ Winslow was soon approached by Jackson Brewery regarding an advertising consultant position, which Winslow accepted.²⁶⁷ The brewery later sponsored Winslow's very own radio show, making him the first Black radio DJ in New Orleans—"Dr. Daddy-O."²⁶⁸ Today, Winslow's art is little remembered, but a large collection of his radio recordings is preserved at Tulane University.²⁶⁹

2.9.3.3 Richmond Barthé

Richmond Barthé was born on 28 January 1901 in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Not much is known about his upbringing, though it is evident that Barthé possessed an affinity for art at an early age.²⁷⁰ In his youth, he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, dropping out of school at 16 to begin working. He continued to create art while supporting himself through various odd jobs, and even submitted some of his paintings to his local church for a fundraiser. The parish priest was thoroughly impressed with the paintings and recommended that he study art.²⁷¹ However, Barthé was denied entry into the New Orleans Art School because of his race. Undeterred, he applied and was accepted into the SAIC, where he studied between 1924 and 1928.²⁷²

Barthé first came to the public's attention in 1927, when he was acclaimed for his portrait drawings and sculptures at the *Negro in Art* exhibit, hosted by the Chicago Women's Club. His sculptural talent was praised by

²⁶⁶ Gibson C. 2022. "Dr. Daddy-O: The First Black DJ in New Orleans, Changed Local Radio for Good." 4WWL, February 28, 2022. <https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/local/orleans/dr-daddy-o-the-first-black-dj-in-new-orleans-changed-local-radio-for-good/289-beabd0d8-f3d8-4568-9e73-804a6443a101>.

²⁶⁷ 1950 Census. 1950. "Vernon Winslow," New Orleans, Louisiana. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/77004529:62308>, accessed Nov. 23, 2022.

²⁶⁸ Gibson. 2022. "Dr. Daddy-O: The First Black DJ in New Orleans, Changed Local Radio for Good."

²⁶⁹ Winslow, Vernon, DJ. 1950-? "Vernon 'Dr. Daddy-O' Winslow Broadcast Recordings." Tulane University Digital Library. <https://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane:vernonwinslow>.

²⁷⁰ Summers, M. 2007. "Richmond Barthé (1901-1988)." *Black Past*, Nov. 19, 2007. <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/barthe-richmond-1901-1988/>.

²⁷¹ Summers. 2007. "Richmond Barthé (1901-1988)."

²⁷² Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 130; Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Richmond Barthé." Art + Artists. <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/richmond-barthe-27551>.

contemporary Black artist and critic, James Porter, who admired Barthé for creating serious works with sensitive application of innovative sculpting techniques.²⁷³ According to Porter, many Black artists attempted to create works that imitated the styles of traditional African art, but fell short because they did not have “a clear conception of African decoration.”²⁷⁴ In particular, it was the details and patterning of African sculpture that American artists imitated poorly.²⁷⁵ However, Porter maintained that artists who focused on studying the overall form and massing of African sculpture usually produced successful works. In Porter’s estimation, Barthé was counted among this group, and his attempt to study the overall form of African art instead of its finer details led him to create sculptures that were highly original. By the 1930s, “it was almost impossible to detect . . . a trace of the erstwhile African influence.”²⁷⁶ Barthé later moved to New York City, where he met some of the most important figures of the New Negro Movement and the Harlem Renaissance—including Alaine Locke.²⁷⁷ Barthé’s growing reputation, and his association with Locke, made him an attractive candidate to speak at the dedication of Fort Huachuca’s 1943 art exhibit, where he delivered an address entitled “Public Sponsorship of Art.”²⁷⁸

Barthé became especially well-known for creating sculptures portraying religious themes, Black historical figures, and theater personalities. He was widely acclaimed for his talents, and participated in numerous art shows, including the Harmon Exhibits, Chicago’s 1933 *Century of Progress* exposition, New York City’s 1939 World’s Fair—“The World of Tomorrow,” and several solo shows.²⁷⁹ He earned several honors and awards during his early career, but he soon grew exhausted from all the attention he received. He moved to Jamaica in the late 1940s and remained active throughout the Caribbean until the late 1960s.²⁸⁰ He moved back to the United States and died in Southern California in 1989.²⁸¹

²⁷³ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 95, 136–137.

²⁷⁴ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 105.

²⁷⁵ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 105.

²⁷⁶ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 105.

²⁷⁷ Summers. 2007. “Richmond Barthé (1901–1988).”

²⁷⁸ “Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists,” Pamphlet.

²⁷⁹ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 130; “Richmond Barthé,” Smithsonian American Art Museum.

²⁸⁰ “Richmond Barthé,” Smithsonian American Art Museum.

²⁸¹ Summers. 2007. “Richmond Barthé (1901–1988).”

3 The Exhibit Artists and Key Figures

This chapter provides biographies of the artists who participated in the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists*. While some individuals have a prominent reputation in the field of fine arts, several artists at the exhibition are not well-known. Although the event was billed as an *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists*, seven artists identified as White people according to public records such as census data and draft cards—Stuart Bruce, Knute Heldner, Paul Laessle, Edmond Malnate, Bernard Schardt, Adrian Troy, and Joseph Vavak. It is possible that a few may have identified as part of White society although they had some Black heritage. It is also possible that, despite identifying as White people, these artists were included in the exhibition because their body of work depicted Black individuals or themes related to the Black experience in America.

3.1 Henry Avery (1902–1982)

3.1.1 Biography

Henry Arcentral Avery was born in Morganton, North Carolina, in January 1902. By the time Avery was eight years old, he was residing in the Colored Orphan Asylum in Fishing Creek Township, North Carolina.²⁸² Little else is known of his early childhood, and it is unclear how Avery developed an interest in the visual arts. Avery joined the US Army as a teenager, serving from 1920 to 1923.²⁸³ Though his period of service is outside the official scope of the conflict, Avery's gravestone denotes him as a WWI Private First Class (Figure 41).²⁸⁴

²⁸² 1910 Census. 1910. "Henry Avery." Fishing Creek, North Carolina. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/20544512:7884>, accessed December 6, 2022.

²⁸³ US Veterans' Gravesites, ca. 1775–2019, National Cemetery Administration, <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/ngl/result#results-content>, accessed December 6, 2022.

²⁸⁴ Hart, Bill. 2000. "Henry A. Avery." Find a Grave. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/305966/henry-a-avery>.

Figure 41. Henry Avery's WWII draft card, showing his employment with the WPA in 1942.
(Image reproduced from Ancestry.com. Public domain.)²⁸⁵

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)			
SERIAL NUMBER T 0861	1. NAME (Print) Henry Arcentral Avery (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER T 10,150
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 3555 Cottage Grove Ave Chicago Cook Ill. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)			
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 40	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Morganston No. Carolina (Town or county) (State or country)	
DATE OF BIRTH 1 22 1902 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Martha Avery, 3555 Cottage Grove, Chicago			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS W.P.A.			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1021 So State St. Chicago Cook Ill. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42)		 (Registrant's signature)	

By the mid-1930s, Avery had relocated to Chicago, becoming a part of the vibrant arts community in Bronzeville. He began working for the Illinois FAP Easel Division (part of the WPA) in 1937.²⁸⁶ The same year, Avery participated in his first exhibition, presenting as a part of the Chicago Artists' Group at the Art Institute in the 48th Annual American Painting and Sculpture Exhibition.²⁸⁷ Avery's artistic skills were largely self-taught, with no records indicating he had any official training. Despite this, Avery exhibited remarkable creative and administrative talent and was named chairman of the site committee responsible for developing the SSCAC in 1938.²⁸⁸

²⁸⁵ World War II Draft Cards. 1942. "Henry Arcentral Avery," Feb. 16, 1942.
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/39849793:2238>, accessed Dec. 6, 2022.

²⁸⁶ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 130.

²⁸⁷ Art Institute Chicago, The. n.d. "American Painting and Sculpture 48th Annual." Exhibitions. <https://www.artic.edu/exhibitions/5834/american-painting-and-sculpture-48th-annual>.

²⁸⁸ Darby, G. B. 1938. "Minutes of Meeting of Interested People Regarding the South Side's Proposed Community Art Center." October 25, 1938. *Mapping the Stacks: A Guide to Black Chicago's Hidden Archive*. <https://mts.lib.uchicago.edu/artifacts/index.php?id=sscac>.

Avery continued producing art during his time as chairman, specializing in still life and mural paintings. He is notably accredited as a muralist for the Masonic Temple and Regal Theater in Chicago, as well as the Civic Center in Alton, Illinois.²⁸⁹ He continued producing government-sponsored art through the early 1940s.

After his time with the WPA, Avery's life is largely undocumented. He remained in Chicago with his wife, Martha, into the 1940s.²⁹⁰ Later, he moved to Los Angeles for unknown reasons. Avery continued painting as he aged, dabbling in abstract art in the 1960s.²⁹¹ Based on remaining records, however, none of his works received significant acclaim. Avery died on 16 December 1982, in Los Angeles.²⁹²

3.1.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Avery presented two pieces at the 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition, entitled *Girl with Peaches* and *Big Apple*. Based on the style of Avery's surviving pieces, these oil paintings likely showed qualities of post-impressionism and folk art. Until definitive originals or reproductions are located, it cannot be known for certain what these paintings looked like. However, it appears that *Big Apples* is visible in the upper left-hand side of a group photo at the exhibit (Figure 42).

²⁸⁹ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 132.

²⁹⁰ *World War II Draft Card*, "Henry Arcentral Avery."

²⁹¹ Artnet. n.d. "Henry Avery." Artists. <http://www.artnet.com/artists/henry-avery/>.

²⁹² *California, US Death Index, 1940–1997*. "Henry Arcentral Avery." <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/271799:5180>, accessed December 6, 2022.

Figure 42. Vernon Winslow (*left*) and Hale Woodruff (*right*) in front of a painting at the 1943 exhibit. This piece may be Avery's *Big Apples*. (Image reproduced from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public Domain.)



3.2 Samuel Joseph Brown (1907–1994)

3.2.1 Biography

Samuel Joseph Brown was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, on 16 April 1907.²⁹³ When he was still a child, Brown and his parents moved to Philadelphia as a part of the Great Migration.²⁹⁴ There, he completed his formal education, graduating with a degree in art education from the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art and later earning a

²⁹³ *World War II Draft Card*. 1940. "Samuel Joseph Brown." October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7738739:2238>, accessed Sept. 16, 2022.

²⁹⁴ *1920 Census*. 1920. "Samuel Brown." Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/89135886:6061>, accessed Sept. 16, 2022.

Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.²⁹⁵ During his time as a student, Brown met fellow artist Dox Thrash (also featured in Fort Huachuca's 1943 exhibition), with whom he shared a studio space for many years.²⁹⁶ In 1933, Brown joined the PWAP in Philadelphia, becoming the first Black artist to do so.²⁹⁷ His position as an Easel Division painter and printmaker for the WPA supplemented his existing work as an art instructor in the local public school district (Figure 43).²⁹⁸

Figure 43. Samuel Joseph Brown printmaking. (Used with permission courtesy of Temple University. Applicable rights reserved.)²⁹⁹



²⁹⁵ Metropolitan Museum of Art, The. n.d. "Samuel Joseph Brown, Jr., Self-Portrait." The Collection. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/488109>.

²⁹⁶ Woodmere Art Museum. n.d. "Samuel Joseph Brown." Collection. <https://woodmereartmuseum.org/explore-online/collection/artist/samuel-joseph-brown>.

²⁹⁷ Collins, L. G., L. M. Messinger, and R. Mustalish. 2003. *African-American Artists, 1929–1945: Prints, Drawings, and Paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. New York, NY: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 33.

²⁹⁸ Collins et al. 2003. *African-American Artists, 1929–1945*, 33.

²⁹⁹ Mosley, J. W. 1940? "Samuel Joseph Brown Jr.," Temple University Libraries, <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll17/id/455/rec/2>, accessed July 14, 2022. Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection (blockson@temple.edu for permission to publish

During his time working with the WPA and beyond, Brown's works were recognized by notable art institutions and news media outlets. Some of his early pieces drew attention due to their poignant racial commentary. In 1933, Brown's art was featured on the cover of *The Crisis*, the official magazine of the NAACP.³⁰⁰ The following year, Brown's *The Lynching* was published in major Black newspaper, *The Philadelphia Tribune*.³⁰¹ In 1934, his piece displayed at the Corcoran Gallery of Art garnered the attention of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The two developed a friendship, with the First Lady making visits to Brown's home and purchasing some of his art for display in the White House.³⁰² Brown's acclaim later reached the international stage when he became the only Black artist in the Museum of Modern Art's 1939 "New Horizons in American Art" exhibition in Paris.³⁰³

Brown retired from his long public-school teaching career in 1971.³⁰⁴ After his retirement, he continued painting and printmaking until his death in 1994, and his works were shown in several exhibitions.³⁰⁵ His work is housed in many federal, university, and private collections, including the White House, Brown's alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, and the National Gallery of Art.³⁰⁶

3.2.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Brown was skilled in a variety of artistic mediums, specializing in watercolor, oils, lithograph prints, and pencil drawings. He showed the same versatility in his subject matter and style, which included watercolor portraiture, abstract urban landscapes, and folk-style scenes depicting the Black experience.³⁰⁷ Black themes remained constant in his work, evoking a spectrum of emotions consistent with the reality of

³⁰⁰ Crisis, The. 1933. "Cover Image." *The Crisis* 40 (6): 1, <https://books.google.com/books?id=FcEAAAAMBAJ&q=the+crisis+magazine+1933#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

³⁰¹ Smith, J. C. Jr. 1982. "Samuel Joseph Brown: The Artist." *Selected Speeches*, Aug. 1, 1982. http://dh.howard.edu/jcs_speeches/98.

³⁰² Smith. 1982. "Samuel Joseph Brown: The Artist."

³⁰³ Porter. 1940. *Modern Negro Art*, 126.

³⁰⁴ Lorange, N. 2007. "Samuel Joseph Brown." New Deal/W.P.A. Artist Biographies. <http://wpamurals.org/wpabios.html#B>.

³⁰⁵ Richberg, B. J. 1994. "Samuel Brown, 87, Watercolorist Whose Work was Widely Acclaimed." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 27, 1994. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/17627693>.

³⁰⁶ Mosley J. 1940? "Samuel Joseph Brown Jr." Temple University Libraries.

³⁰⁷ Mutual Art. n.d. "Samuel J. Brown Artworks." Artists. <https://www.mutualart.com/Artist/Samuel-J--Brown/A9D9A21501027A36/Artworks>.

Black American life in the early 20th century.³⁰⁸ The figures in Brown's folk-style pieces were often shown with exaggerated features, at times appearing as caricature. Art historians have praised Brown's masterful employment of this style to emphasize pain and struggle.³⁰⁹ Four of Brown's six contributions to the 1943 exhibition at Fort Huachuca, though, use exaggerative technique to represent childlike innocence, such as his painting *Writing Lesson* (Figure 44)³¹⁰ and a lithograph of the same name (Figure 45)³¹¹. The titles of two other submissions, *Child Smiling* and *Child Reading* (no attributable images), suggest similar content and style, perhaps inspired by his career as an educator. Brown submitted two additional pieces to the 1943 exhibit, a painting titled *Portrait Study* (no attributable image) and a print titled *Abstract* (Figure 46).³¹²

³⁰⁸ Richberg. 1994. "Samuel Brown, 87, Watercolorist Whose Work was Widely Acclaimed."

³⁰⁹ Vendryes, M. R. 1997. "Hanging on Their Walls: an Art Commentary on Lynching, the Forgotten 1935 Art Exhibition." In *Race Consciousness: African-American Studies for the New Century*, ed. J. J. Fossett and J. A. Tucker. New York, NY: New York University Press, 159. http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msaref10/msa_s1048_1_and_10/pdf/msa_sc_5458_51_2750.pdf.

³¹⁰ Samuel Joseph Brown, "Writing Lesson," c. 1936–1937, printed in Locke, *The Negro in Art*, 92.

³¹¹ Brown, Samuel Joseph. 1937. "'Writing Lesson' (1937)." GSA Fine Arts Catalog. Accessed December 6, 2022. <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts/?artist/1048>.

³¹² Samuel Joseph Brown, "Abstract," c. 1937, Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed February 7, 2023, <https://philamuseum.org/collection/object/94607>.

Figure 44. Samuel Joseph Brown (1907–1994), *Writing Lesson*, c. 1936–1937, watercolor, Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 31. (Used with permission from *The Negro in Art*, 1940. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 45. Samuel Joseph Brown (1907–1994), *Writing Lesson*, 1937, lithograph, 9 in. × 7 in., The Free Library of Philadelphia, exhibit number 59. (Used with permission from GSA Fine Arts catalog. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 46. Samuel Joseph Brown (1907–1994), *Abstract*, c. 1937, lithograph on wove paper, 12 in. × 9 1/2 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 58. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



3.3 Stuart Bruce (1898–1975)

3.3.1 Biography

Stuart Bruce Pepper (known professionally as Stuart Bruce) was born in Chicopee, Massachusetts on 28 May 1898.³¹³ While Bruce seems to have secured a measure of regional and, according to one article from the 1940s, national recognition during his lifetime. However, today, little appears to be known about his productive years or the circumstances which cultivated his interest in the arts. A general impression of his upbringing can be abstracted from census data. In 1900, two-year-old Stuart Bruce and his family resided in Chicopee, where his father, Charles Pepper, worked as a bicycle manufacturer.³¹⁴ Ten years later, the family had moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Charles had secured work in the city's burgeoning automotive industry.³¹⁵ While in Detroit, Stuart Bruce attended Central High School, where his early interest in art motivated him to become a founding member of the school's art club in 1915.³¹⁶ After high school, Bruce found employment as a Detroit advertising artist.³¹⁷ Census records indicate that Bruce had moved to New York City by 1930, where he worked as a sketch artist. During the 1930s, Bruce returned to his native Massachusetts and became head of Boston's Cambridge Art School.³¹⁸ By the early 1940s, Bruce found work as an educator at the Cummington School of the Arts in Cummington, Massachusetts, and had earned a positive reputation as a watercolor painter.³¹⁹

There are few details surrounding the remainder of Bruce's life. It appears Bruce moved to New Hampshire in the 1940s, where he taught art at the Valley Hotel Studio in Hillsboro.³²⁰ A Social Security record indicates that

³¹³ *Massachusetts, US Birth Records, 1840–1915*. "Births Registered in the City of Chicopee for the year Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-Eight," May 28, 1898. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4306486:5062>, accessed August 18, 2022.

³¹⁴ *1900 Census*. "Stewart Pepper," Chicopee City, Massachusetts. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/23396472:7602>, accessed August 19, 2022.

³¹⁵ *1910 Census*. "Stewart B Pepper," Detroit, Michigan. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/198666665:7884>, accessed August 19, 2022.

³¹⁶ *Detroit Times, The*. 1915. "Central High School." *The Detroit Times*, March 20, 1915. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/835252117>.

³¹⁷ *World War I Draft Cards*. "Stuart Bruce Pepper," Sept. 12, 1918. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/33056301:6482>, accessed August 19, 2022.

³¹⁸ *Boston Globe*. 1937. "Pepper Divorce Vacated, Wife Given New Decree." *Boston Globe*, Dec. 11, 1937. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/428918767>.

³¹⁹ *Transcript Telegram*. 1941. "To Hold Exhibit of Watercolors at Cummington." *Transcript Telegram*, July 11, 1941. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/837722035>.

³²⁰ *Concord Monitor*. 1948. "Hillsboro Items." *Concord Monitor*, January 16, 1948. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/834697723>.

Bruce made New Hampshire his home for the next 25 years. He died in September 1975.³²¹

3.3.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

It is unclear how Bruce became involved in Fort Huachuca's 1943 art exhibit; unlike most of the participants, Bruce was a White artist.³²² Details about his piece at the Fort Huachuca exhibit, *Man Shoveling*, are unknown (no attributable image).

3.4 William Sylvester Carter (1909–1996)

3.4.1 Biography

William Sylvester Carter was born in St. Louis, Missouri on 5 May 1909.³²³ After graduating high school, Carter earned a scholarship to the SAIC, where he studied from 1930 to 1931. While in Chicago, Carter honed his skills in Bronzeville. Here, he became an active member in the Chicago Black Renaissance and associated with talented Black artists such as Archibald Motley Jr., Eldzier Cortor, and Charles White (all of whom submitted artwork for Fort Huachuca's 1943 exhibit).³²⁴ After gaining valuable experience at the SAIC, Carter continued his education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.³²⁵ Like other Depression-era artists, Carter found employment through the FAP, and his work was exhibited in several prominent venues, such as the Chicago Art League in 1934, the Art Institute of Chicago in 1937, and the Hull House in 1938. In 1940, Carter achieved a highpoint in his early career when he exhibited his work in Chicago's *American Negro Exhibition*, where he won first place in the watercolor category.³²⁶ In addition to the *American Negro Exhibition*, Carter enjoyed recognition at another significant event in 1940 when he was featured as one of the inaugural artists at the opening of Chicago's SSCAC.³²⁷

³²¹ US Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014. "Stuart Pepper," Sept. 1975. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/48154547:3693>, accessed Dec. 6, 2022.

³²² Bruce's race is enumerated as White in draft registration cards and census records.

³²³ World War II Draft Cards, "William Sylvester Carter," October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/40250085:2238>, accessed August 11, 2022.

³²⁴ White Crow Fine Paintings. n.d. "William Sylvester Carter." Vintage American Modernist Paintings 1910-1960. <https://whitecrow.squarespace.com/william-sylvester-carter>.

³²⁵ Greenhouse, W. n.d. "William S. Carter," M. Christine Schwartz Collection. <https://schwartzcollection.com/artist/william-s-carter/>.

³²⁶ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 131.

³²⁷ "South Side Community Art Center Archives," Mapping the Stacks.

Carter was a versatile artist whose subjects included landscapes, human figures, and floral compositions. His preferred medium of choice was paint, and using watercolors, oils, and tempuras, Carter's pieces ranged from mimetic still-life scenes to abstract compositions. Although he tried to support himself with his art, Carter often supplemented his income through other means. In addition to his career, Carter also "served as a substitute teacher in Chicago Public Schools, painted decorative shower curtains, did manual labor for R.R. Donnelley & Sons printing company, and worked as a porter on cross-country trains, among other jobs."³²⁸

Carter finalized his education at the University of Illinois in the 1950s, where he earned BA and BFA degrees (Figure 47). He created art through the remainder of his life and showed work at solo and group exhibits in his later years. Carter died in 1996.³²⁹

Figure 47. William Sylvester Carter in 1955. (Used with permission from the University of Illinois Yearbook Urbana-Champaign. Applicable rights reserved.)³³⁰



³²⁸ Greenhouse. n.d. "William S. Carter."

³²⁹ Greenhouse. n.d. "William S. Carter."

³³⁰ University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 1955 Yearbook, 154.

3.4.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Securing a prominent reputation in the Black art community by the early 1940s, Carter was invited to show his work at Fort Huachuca's art exhibit in 1943. His two submissions, *South Side Alley* and *Landscape* (no attributable images) were categorized as oil paintings in the exhibition pamphlet. However, additional details about the paintings, including their appearance, are unknown. Due to Carter's expressive versatility, it is difficult to speculate how the paintings may have looked. However, if they resembled other pieces in Carter's portfolio, they may have exhibited a characteristically vibrant color palette.

3.5 Ralph Chessé (1900–1991)

3.5.1 Biography

Ralph Chessé was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 6 January 1900. His childhood was spent between his native city of New Orleans and his adopted city of Chicago, where he had other family members. As he came of age, Chessé expressed interest in both art and theater. Believing at first that painting offered good prospects for the future, Chessé enrolled at the SAIC in 1918. However, after a year at the Art Institute, Chessé moved back to New Orleans to pursue his other interest, theater. There, he exercised his thespian aptitude in a variety of roles, serving as an actor, assistant stage manager, and make-up artist. During the 1920s, Chessé traveled frequently and found ways to work in both applied art and theater. During this decade, Chessé lived in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York, participating in varied activities including puppet-making, scene painting, acting, and printmaking.³³¹

During the 1930s, Chessé continued practicing a mix of art and puppetry. He was commissioned in 1934 to complete a fresco in San Francisco's Coit Tower, but never painted such murals again. For much of the decade, Chessé worked with marionettes, and eventually became director of puppetry at San Francisco's Federal Theater.³³²

³³¹ Harter, Christopher. n.d. "Chessé, Ralph (Raphael Alexandre)." Amistad Research Center. <https://amistad-finding-aids.tulane.edu/agents/people/1376>.

³³² Annex Galleries, The. n.d. "Ralph Alexander Chessé," Biography. <https://www.annexgalleries.com/artists/biography/409/Chesse/Ralph>.

From 1953 to 1969, Chessé produced a kids' television series called, "Brother Buzz" which was (and still is) the longest running children's television program in San Francisco. Later, he traveled to Europe, which influenced his future career path. When he got the opportunity to visit France for the first time, he was inspired to paint again. He died in March 1991 in Ashland, Oregon and was buried in San Francisco where he spent most of his career.

3.5.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

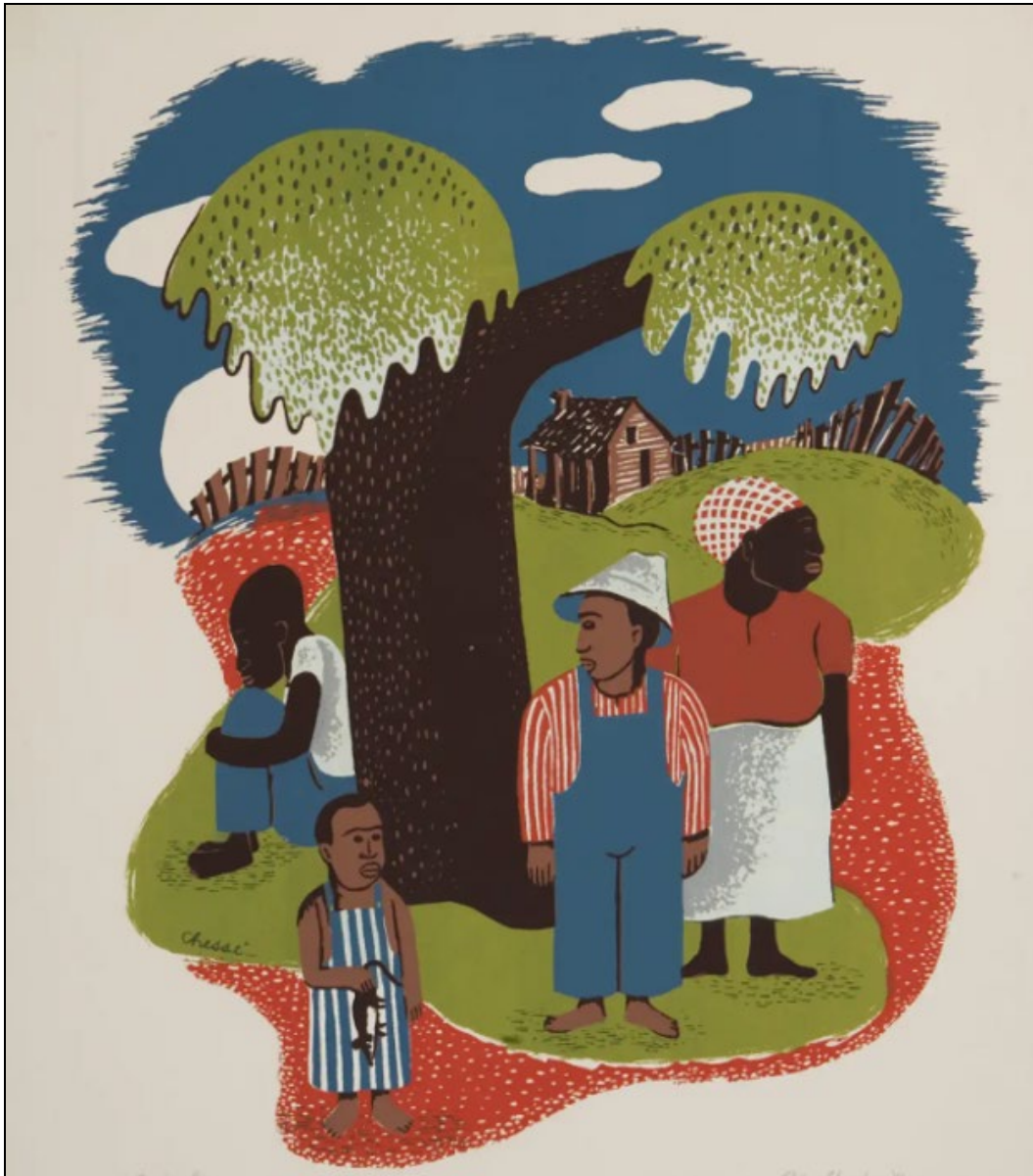
Chessé's involvement with the WPA during the 1930s and 1940s made him a potential candidate for Fort Huachuca's 1943 Exhibit.³³³ Here, he had one piece on display, simply titled *Family Group* (Figure 48).³³⁴ This colorful silkscreen print is evocative of the scenery Chessé might have constructed for a marionette show. Four bold colors dominate the print: blue, green, red, and brown. The foreground and background are flat, blending into the same plane. The center of the composition is dominated by a stalky, nearly limbless tree, the foliage of which drapes downward like a viscous liquid. The verticality of the tree is complimented by the verticality of the four figures beneath it. Although this family group is together (in the sense that they inhabit a shared space), the lack of eye contact between them suggest that the members might be emotionally distant from each other. In a whimsical and almost imperceptible touch, Chessé portrays the youngest member of the family holding a dead rat.³³⁵

³³³ Harter. "Ralph Alexandre Chessé."

³³⁴ Chessé, Ralph. 1941. "Family Group." Detroit Institute of Arts Museum. Accessed February 7, 2023. <https://dia.org/collection/family-group-36906>.

³³⁵ Chessé, Ralph. 1941. "Family Group." Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Accessed September 20, 2017. <https://www.famsf.org/artworks/family-group>.

Figure 48. Ralph Chessé (1900–1991), *Family Group*, c. 1941, color screen-print, 25 1/16 in. × 19 1/8 in., Detroit Institute of Arts Museum, exhibit number 39. (Used with permission from Detroit Institute of Arts Museum. Applicable rights reserved.)



3.6 Claude Clark (1915–2001)

3.6.1 Biography

Born in Rockingham, Georgia, on 11 November 1915, Claude Clark is one of the most celebrated Black artists of the 20th century. As a child, he moved from his birthplace to Philadelphia as part of the Great

Migration.³³⁶ From 1935–1939, Clark attended the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art. Clark then began working for the WPA as a printer and did so until 1942. At the Philadelphia Fine Prints Workshop, Clark worked alongside other influential artists such as Dox Thrash and Raymond Steth (also featured in the 1943 exhibition).³³⁷ There, he aided Thrash in the development of the color carborundum printing process.³³⁸

Due to financial strains, Clark adapted his style and painting methods to reflect a spirit of frugality. For instance, he would search for materials in trash bins outside of schools to reuse for his own paints, which he ground himself.³³⁹ Clark also became proficient at using a palette knife. Due to the cost of paint brushes, this was an economical choice; however, it became definitive of Clark's style, which was inspired by the rich tones and thick textures of Cézanne and Van Gogh.³⁴⁰ Most of Clark's WPA-era pieces are considered part of the Social Realist movement, but his later works ventured into abstract and modern styles. Regardless of style, Clark desired his works to convey authentic experiences of Black life beyond the boundaries of politics, racism, and inequity.³⁴¹

After the disbandment of the WPA, Clark applied his artistic skills and personal ideology to a decades long career in education. He acted as a Philadelphia public school district art instructor from 1945 to 1948 before accepting a position as an associate professor of art at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama.³⁴² Clark later moved to Oakland, California, where he taught art at the Alameda County Juvenile Facility and Merritt College until his retirement in 1981.³⁴³ As an educator, Clark sought to familiarize his students with Continental African and Black American art styles and traditions. In 1969, he authored a book combining his passions for education and Black cultural history entitled *Black Art Perspective: A*

³³⁶ Johnson, E. 2019. "Claude Clark Artworks: Reflections of 20th Century Life." About the Artist. <https://www.claudeclark.com/about.html>.

³³⁷ African American Registry (AAREG). n.d. "Claude Clark, Artist Born," Today's Stories. <https://aaregistry.org/story/claude-clark-artist-born/>.

³³⁸ Farrington, L. 2016. *African American Art: A Visual and Cultural History*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 172.

³³⁹ AAREG. n.d. "Claude Clark, Artist Born."

³⁴⁰ Johnson. 2019. "Claude Clark Artworks: Reflections of 20th Century Life."

³⁴¹ Johnson. 2019. "Claude Clark Artworks: Reflections of 20th Century Life."

³⁴² AAREG. n.d. "Claude Clark, Artist Born."

³⁴³ Johnson. 2019. "Claude Clark Artworks: Reflections of 20th Century Life."

Black Teacher's Guide of a Black Visual Art Curriculum.³⁴⁴ Clark died in Oakland, California in 2001.³⁴⁵

3.6.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Clark presented four prints at the Fort Huachuca exhibition. *Hills* and *Jumpin' Jive* demonstrate the color carborundum printing process the artist developed alongside Dox Thrash. (Figure 49–Figure 50).³⁴⁶ Those pieces, along with *Time Out* (an etching) and *Boogie-Woogie* (a lithograph), are representative of Clark's WPA-era print works (Figure 51–Figure 52). *Hills* gestures to the vibrant colors and textures of Clark's popular palette knife works, while *Jumpin' Jive*, *Time Out*, and *Boogie-Woogie* show Clark's early penchant for Social Realism, expressing both the challenges and joys of the Black experience.

Figure 49. Claude Clark (1915–2001), *Hills*, c. 1940, color carborundum relief etching, 6 1/2 in. × 9 3/4 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 62. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)³⁴⁷



³⁴⁴ Johnson. 2019. "Claude Clark Artworks: Reflections of 20th Century Life."

³⁴⁵ US Social Security Death Index, "Claude Clark," April 21, 2001.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/10941522:3693>, accessed Dec. 29, 2022.

³⁴⁶ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art: A Visual and Cultural History*, 172.

³⁴⁷ Claude Clark, "Hills," Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed July 14, 2022.

<https://www.philamuseum.org/collection/object/94584>.

Figure 50. Claude Clark (1915–2001), *Jumpin' Jive*, c. 1940, Color carborundum relief etching, 7 1/2 in. × 9 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 60. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)³⁴⁸



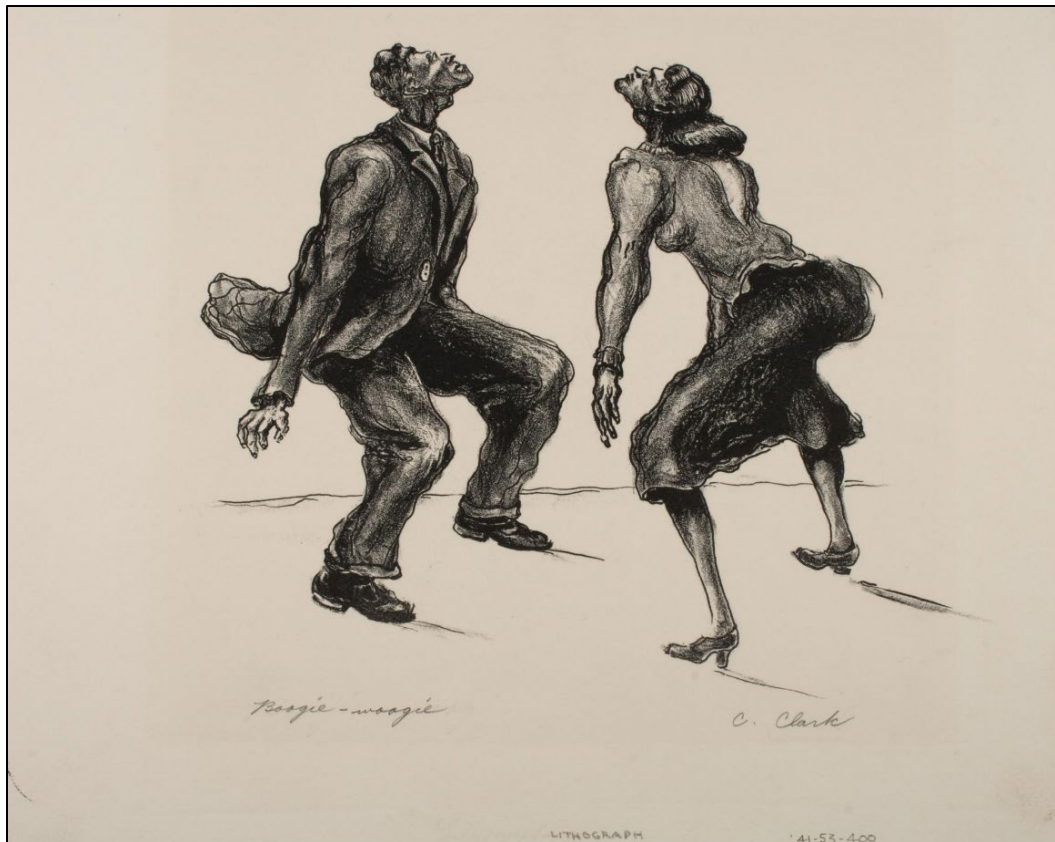
³⁴⁸ Claude Clark, "Jumpin' Jive," Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed July 14, 2022. <https://www.philamuseum.org/collection/object/94561>.

Figure 51. Claude Clark (1915–2001), *Time-Out*, c. 1939–1940, etching, 9 in. × 10 7/8 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 63. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)³⁴⁹



³⁴⁹ Claude Clark, "Time-Out," Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed July 14, 2022.
<https://www.philamuseum.org/collection/object/94466>.

Figure 52. Claude Clark (1915–2001), *Boogie-Woogie*, c. 1940–1941, lithograph, 6 1/2 in. × 8 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 61. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)³⁵⁰



3.7 Eldzier Cortor (1916–2015)

3.7.1 Biography

Shortly after his birth in 1916 in Richmond, Virginia, Eldzier Cortor and his parents moved to Chicago as part of the Great Migration.³⁵¹ Cortor immersed himself in the city's vibrant art community from a young age, joining the Chicago Arts and Crafts Guild at age 16. There, he developed his skills alongside Charles White, a muralist also featured in the Fort Huachuca exhibition.³⁵² Cortor went on to earn a fine arts degree from the SAIC in 1938.³⁵³ From there, Cortor became a founding member of the

³⁵⁰ Claude Clark, "Boogie-Woogie (1940–1941)," Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://philamuseum.org/collection/object/46648>.

³⁵¹ Cortor, M., S. K. Oehler, and M. Pascale. 2020. "Eldzier Cortor through the Eyes of His Son," The Art Institute of Chicago. <https://www.artic.edu/articles/879/eldzier-cortor-through-the-eyes-of-his-son>.

³⁵² Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 131–132.

³⁵³ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 131.

SSCAC. With funding from the WPA, he worked in the center as an easel painter from 1938 to 1943, mainly capturing images of urban poverty endemic in his community.³⁵⁴

At the time of that 1943 exhibition, Cortor had not yet developed the signature style that art historians recognize today. This style, drawing from a combination of African folk art, Surrealism, Cubism, and Dada would help define Cortor's artistic legacy.³⁵⁵ His style was largely inspired by his travels in the mid to late 1940s. In 1944 and 1945, Cortor received grants from the Rosenwald Fund to travel to the American coastal South and paint the Gullah people there.³⁵⁶ Cortor lived in Gullah communities for two years and gained national recognition for his portraits of Gullah women.³⁵⁷ Cortor received another travel grant in 1949, this time from the Guggenheim Fellowship, which allowed him to visit a series of Central American countries to continue his studies of neo-African communities.³⁵⁸

As his career progressed, Cortor developed a nearly exclusive thematic focus on Black womanhood. Many of his pieces feature nude female figures inspired by the women he encountered on his travels.³⁵⁹ Cortor was the first artist to primarily focus on the Black female body, a decision that some audiences found untoward due to the deep, painful history of sexual abuse and exploitation of Black women.³⁶⁰ However, Cortor's artistic intentions and execution glorified his subject, representing the Black woman as symbolic of "the Black Spirit . . . a feeling of eternity and continuance of life."³⁶¹ Stylistically, Cortor achieved this by presenting his figures in a surreal perspective or setting, so to add a sense of enchantment to images of Black existence, particularly in contention with poverty.

³⁵⁴ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 196.

³⁵⁵ Olson L. 2016. "Seeing Eldzier Cortor," *Chicago Review*.
<https://www.chicagoreview.org/seeing-eldzier-cortor/>.

³⁵⁶ The Gullah are a Black ethnic group that preserve and practice traditional African culture in their everyday lives. "Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor," National Park Service, last modified August 4, 2022, <https://www.nps.gov/places/gullah-geechee-cultural-heritage-corridor.htm>.

³⁵⁷ Backer, M. 2006. "Black Spirit: Works on Paper by Eldzier Cortor," Traditional Fine Arts Organization, Inc., March 22, 2006. <https://www.tfaoi.org/aa/6aa/6aa260.htm>.

³⁵⁸ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 197.

³⁵⁹ Backer. 2006. "Black Spirit: Works on Paper by Eldzier Cortor."

³⁶⁰ Art and Design Inspiration. n.d. "Artist Eldzier Cortor—Source of Strength." Famous African American Artists. <https://artanddesigninspiration.com/artist-eldzier-cortor-source-of-strength/>.

³⁶¹ Backer. 2006. "Black Spirit: Works on Paper by Eldzier Cortor."

Cortor continued painting almost to the time of his death, boasting a remarkable 70-year artistic career.³⁶² Just months before he died, the Art Institute of Chicago held a solo exhibition entitled *Eldzier Cortor Coming Home*, which featured more than 30 pieces donated to the museum by the Cortor family.³⁶³ Many of his works remain in the institute's permanent collection, with others being housed at Howard University, the Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Smithsonian American Art Museum.³⁶⁴ Cortor died in New York City in November 2015.³⁶⁵

3.7.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Cortor presented six pieces in the Fort Huachuca exhibition: oil paintings *She Didn't Forget* (Figure 53), *Adjustment* (Figure 54), and *Still Life Figure*, and prints and drawings *The Task*, *Study No. 10*, and *Study No. 11*, (no attributable images). Completed during his time with the SSCAC, the known pieces reflect Cortor's interest in presenting images of urban poverty in his community.³⁶⁶ Like nearly all his works, Cortor did not use models for either work.³⁶⁷ The warm tones and varied proportions of the family scenes harken forward to the characteristics of Cortor's later Surrealist works while maintaining their Social Realist context.³⁶⁸ The subjects of the other four pieces included in the exhibition are unknown. Based on his contemporary repertoire, *The Task*, *Study No. 10*, and *Study No. 11* may be pen sketches or aquatint etchings of female figures.³⁶⁹

³⁶² Cortor et al. 2020. "Eldzier Cortor through the Eyes of His Son."

³⁶³ Cortor et al. 2020. "Eldzier Cortor through the Eyes of His Son."

³⁶⁴ John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. n.d. "Eldzier Cortor." Fellows. <https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/eldzier-cortor/>.

³⁶⁵ Olson. 2016. "Seeing Eldzier Cortor."

³⁶⁶ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 196.

³⁶⁷ Cortor et al. 2020. "Eldzier Cortor through the Eyes of His Son."

³⁶⁸ Backer. 2006. "Black Spirit: Works on Paper by Eldzier Cortor."

³⁶⁹ Invaluable. n.d. "Sold at Auction: Eldzier Cortor." Artists. <https://www.invaluable.com/artist/cortor-eldzier-wjt9cqaywi/sold-at-auction-prices/>.

Figure 53. Eldzier Cortor (1916–2015), *She Didn't Forget*, c. 1930, oil on canvas, 30 in. × 24 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 5. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 54. Eldzier Cortor (1916–2015), *Adjustment*, 1940, casein on board, 28 in. x 35 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 4. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



3.8 Allan Rohan Crite (1910–2007)

3.8.1 Biography

Allan Rohan Crite was born in North Plainfield, New Jersey on 20 March 1910. Soon after his birth, Crite and his family moved to Boston, where his father secured a job as an engineer. While in his youth, Crite's mother frequently escorted him to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella

Steward Garner Museum, a prominent art museum in Boston.³⁷⁰ These visits reinforced Crite's budding artistic inclinations, and in 1929 he became a student at Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts.³⁷¹ In the 1930s, Crite became involved with the Public Works Administration Project and the Massachusetts Art Project. During his early career, Crite had the opportunity to show his art at several notable expositions, including the Boston Society of Independent Artists (1929), several university exhibits (including Harmon, Dillard, and Howard Universities), and the prominent 1940 *American Negro Exhibition* in Chicago.³⁷²

A longtime resident of Boston's lower Roxbury neighborhood, Crite found inspiration in the middle-class Black neighborhoods in which he worked and worshiped. Particularly during his early career, Crite attempted to create a body of artwork that normalized the presence of Black Americans in middle-class settings. According to scholar Julie Leven Caro, he hoped his art would be considered an accepted expression of the Black experience that was as authentic as the working-class, folk-centered perspectives that influenced most Black art at the time.³⁷³ A productive and exceptionally observant artist, the result of Crite's efforts is a large collection of scenes that depict Boston's South Side neighborhoods and its residents in detail. Some of the settings he illustrated, dating from the Interwar and WWII eras, depict built environments that no longer exist due to urban renewal efforts in the 1950s.³⁷⁴ In addition to street scenes, Crite was also known for his portraits and religious art.³⁷⁵

Following the Fort Huachuca exhibit, Crite continued with his artistic pursuits, finding regular employment as an illustrator with the Boston Naval Shipyard's Planning Department until 1976. He continued to paint on his own time, transitioning from the street scenes of his early career to

³⁷⁰ Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. n.d. "About Isabella and her Museum." About. <https://www.gardnermuseum.org/about>.

³⁷¹ National Center of Afro-American Artists. n.d. "Allan Rohan Crite." Collections & Exhibitions. <https://ncaaa.org/the-museum/collections-exhibitions/allan-crite/>.

³⁷² Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 131.

³⁷³ Caro. 2008. "Rooted in the Community," 1–41.

³⁷⁴ National Center of Afro-American Artists. n.d. "Allan Rohan Crite."; South End Historical Society. 2012. "South End History, Part III: Urban Renewal." News and Updates, April 8, 2012. <https://www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/south-end-history-part-iii-urban-renewal/>.

³⁷⁵ National Center of Afro-American Artists. n.d. "Allan Rohan Crite."

pieces with more religious overtones. Crite died in Boston on 6 September 2007.³⁷⁶

3.8.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Crite had one oil painting at Fort Huachuca's art exhibit. His entry, entitled *Shawmut Avenue*, was completed in 1939 and appears to be representative of the dynamic Boston street scenes he was creating at that time. *Shawmut Avenue* is an energetic composition depicting the levity of a hot summer day in a middle-class, Black neighborhood. As throngs of children gather under the refreshing spray of an opened fire hydrant, adults look on from a nearby sidewalk. As a Social Realist painting, this work tells the story of an intergenerational, Depression-era neighborhood that appears to be economically buoyant and alive with activity (Figure 55).

Figure 55. Allen Rohan Crite (1910–2007), *Shawmut Avenue*, c. 1939, oil on canvas board, 18 in. × 24 in., exhibit number 6. (Used with permission from Artnet. Applicable rights reserved.)³⁷⁷



³⁷⁶ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Allen Rohan Crite." Art + Artists. <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/allan-rohan-crite-1047>.

³⁷⁷ Allen Rohan Crite, *Shawmut Avenue*, c. 1939, Artnet, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://www.artnet.com/artists/allan-rohan-crite/shawmut-avenue-boston-gIMLNvONyWwCaXJg3A1Tg2>.

3.9 Charles Davis (1910–1963)

3.9.1 Biography

Charles Davis was born on 3 November 1910, as the second of six children.³⁷⁸ The Davis family resided in Evanston, Illinois, and Charles remained in the Cook County area into his adulthood. Davis married his first wife, Hazel, at age eighteen, and by 1930, the couple had an infant child, Charles, Jr. At that time, Davis was working as a dishwasher at a local restaurant.³⁷⁹

In the early 1930s, Davis joined Eldzier Cortor and Charles White in the Chicago Arts and Crafts Guild, studying under local painter George Neal.³⁸⁰ He later enrolled in the SAIC where he studied painting from 1936 to 1938. As a student, he participated in his first public exhibition at the South Side Settlement House in 1937, a reform institution for Black residents of Chicago.³⁸¹ The next several years marked the most productive part of Davis's artistic career. With funding from the WPA, Davis created a series of murals entitled *The Progress of American Industry* between 1937 and 1938. The six murals highlighted various fields of labor, from lumbering to bridge building.³⁸²

In 1938, some of his smaller-scale works were featured in showings with the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Artists Group, and the Hull House, a social house for immigrants in Chicago.³⁸³ He also presented with the American Negro Exhibition in 1940 alongside many other artists included in the 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition.

Davis's artistic career was put on hold when he enlisted in May 1944. He served in the US Navy as a fireman until he was honorably discharged on 19 January 1945. Little is known about his life following his military service. Davis died in 1963 and was buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, near

³⁷⁸ 1920 Census. "Charles Davis." Evanston, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/82809195:6061>, accessed Sept. 25, 2022.

³⁷⁹ 1930 Census. "Charles Davis." Evanston, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/25101324:6224>, accessed Sept. 25, 2022.

³⁸⁰ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 131–132.

³⁸¹ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 131–132; Lee, KJ. J., and R. B. Dieser. 2020. "Ada S. McKinley: A Hidden History of African American Settlement House in Chicago." *Leisure Sciences* 45 (4): 351–367. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2020.1830904>.

³⁸² Bunkin, R. 2017. "Richmond County Courthouse: Charles Davis Murals—Staten Island, NY." *The Living New Deal*. <https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/richmond-county-courthouse-charles-davis-murals-staten-island-ny/>.

³⁸³ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 131; Britannica Editors. 2020. "Hull House." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hull-House>.

Chicago. He was survived by his second wife, Alma B. Davis.³⁸⁴ Many of Davis's works have been lost or incorporated into private collections over the years, though his mural series is preserved in the Richmond County Courthouse of Staten Island, New York.³⁸⁵

3.9.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Davis showed three oil paintings at the Huachuca exhibition: *Benediction*, *Johnny Mae Sewing* (no attributable images), and *Newsboy* (Figure 56). *Newsboy* provides an example of his typical Social Realist style. Davis's art usually depicted ordinary people and places associated with Bronzeville, which he presented using rich color and soft brushstrokes.³⁸⁶

Figure 56. Charles Davis (1910–1963), *Newsboy*, c. 1934, oil on canvas, Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 8. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



³⁸⁴ *US Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925–1970*, “Charles Vincent Davis,” July 22, 1963. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2467185:2375>, accessed September 25, 2022.

³⁸⁵ “Richmond County Courthouse: Charles Davis Murals—Staten Island, NY.”

³⁸⁶ askART. n.d. “Charles Vincent Davis.” Artist Auction Records. https://www.askart.com/Auction_Records/Charles_Vincent_Davis/132814/Charles_Vincent_Davis.aspx?lot=3023354.

3.10 Thurman William Dillard (1918–1991)

3.10.1 Biography

Thurman William Dillard was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on 22 December 1918. His father was murdered when Dillard was a small child, leaving the family without a source of income.³⁸⁷ By 1930, Dillard's aunt, a housekeeper, had moved in with the family to provide care and financial support.³⁸⁸ Dillard resided with his family into his twenties, working as a waiter.³⁸⁹ He then studied full-time at Stowe Teachers College in St. Louis before joining the Army in 1942.³⁹⁰

Sergeant Dillard was stationed at Fort Huachuca and quickly engaged with creative opportunities on the base (Figure 57 and Figure 58).³⁹¹ When he was not training or working as an ordnance clerk for the Supply and Service Detachment, Dillard was often found in the art workshop on the Old Post.³⁹² There, he learned mural and printmaking skills from Lew Davis and worked with Davis to complete several works, including a mural for the Lakeside Officers' Club. A pair of Dillard's paintings were also included in the Ninth Service Command's Arts and Crafts Traveling Show in 1945. Additionally, Dillard had several poems published in the base newspaper and won multiple honors for his writings in national poetry competitions.³⁹³

³⁸⁷ *US Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014*, "Thurman W. Dillard," December 1990. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/47293781:60901>, accessed October 27, 2022.

³⁸⁸ *1930 Census*, "Thermon Dillard," St. Louis, Missouri. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3614942:6224>, accessed October 27, 2022.

³⁸⁹ *1940 Census*, "Thurman Dilliard," St. Louis, Missouri, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/91577641:2442>, accessed October 27, 2022.

³⁹⁰ Apache Sentinel. 1945. "Huachuca Sergeant Exhibits Paintings in NSC's Art Show." *The Apache Sentinel*, January 19, 1945. <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32185>.

³⁹¹ *US Veterans' Gravesites, ca. 1775–2019*, "Thurman W. Dillard," January 7, 1991, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/854855:8750>, accessed October 25, 2022.

³⁹² "Huachuca Sergeant Exhibits Paintings in NSC's Art Show."

³⁹³ "Huachuca Sergeant Exhibits Paintings in NSC's Art Show."

Figure 57. Thurman Dillard as featured in the *Apache Sentinel*, 1945. (Image from the *Apache Sentinel*. Public domain.)³⁹⁴

Huachuca Sergeant Exhibits Paintings In NSC's Art Show

T/4 Thurman W. Dillard, poet as well as artist, has had two of his paintings accepted in the Ninth Service Command's Arts and Crafts Traveling Show. The exhibition will be shown in the next three months in thirty stations of the Command.



SGT. T. W. DILLARD

Sergeant Dillard, who has been stationed at Fort Huachuca for nearly three years, is assigned to the Supply and Service Detachment, where he is an ordnance clerk.

The paintings which were accepted for the exhibit are: "Singing the Spirituals" and "Tales From Vienna Woods." Both were done on off-duty hours by Sgt. Dillard. Over 380 entries were submitted in the contest, the best works being selected and twenty-five per cent, not meeting the standards, rejected. The contest included paintings and drawings, photographs, posters and crafts.

Is Diligent Worker

Sgt. Dillard never studied art formally, but for more than two years has devoted all of his leisure time to study of the field he will make his career. Evenings and Sundays find him hard at work in the Art Workshop on the Old Post with his painting.

The sergeant is also an accomplished poet, having placed among the first six in an annual poetry contest sponsored by THE SPAN, a St. Louis Poetry magazine, last year, and having many of his poems published by national publications. In December, he placed third in the Ralph Chaney Memorial Association poetry contest. The prize-winning poems are re-published on page two of this issue.

Sgt. Dillard is a former student at Stowe Teachers College in St. Louis, Mo., where his mother resides. He is impatient for peace to come so that he may devote all of his time to painting and poetry.

³⁹⁴ "Huachuca Sergeant Exhibits Paintings in NSC's Art Show."

Figure 58. Drawing by Thurman Dillard in the *Apache Sentinel*, 1945. (Image from the *Apache Sentinel*. Public domain.)³⁹⁵



3.10.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

During his time stationed at Fort Huachuca, Dillard produced *Aviator*, an oil painting included in the exhibition. The piece was likely inspired by his experience on a military base, though its qualities are unknown (no attributable image).

3.11 Walter Ellison (1900–1977)

3.11.1 Biography

On 20 February 1900, Walter Ellison was born to a farming family in Eatonton, Georgia.³⁹⁶ Ellison was the eldest of seven children and began working as a farmhand at an early age, helping in the fields full-time after

³⁹⁵ Dillard, T. W. 1945. "The Days of the Conquistadores," *The Apache Sentinel*, March 9, 1945. <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/32192>.

³⁹⁶ *World War II Draft Cards*, "Walter Willie Ellison," February 20, 1942. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/300582480:2238>, accessed October 25, 2022.

he completed his first year of high school.³⁹⁷ In April 1918, Ellison was drafted into the Army. He trained at Camp Gordon, Georgia for several months but was never deployed.³⁹⁸ The family relocated soon after Ellison's return to accommodate his father's new railroad job, settling for a few years in Bibb County, Georgia.³⁹⁹ There, Ellison met Jemmie Adams, whom he married in 1923.⁴⁰⁰

By the 1930s, Walter and Jemmie were living in Chicago. Ellison worked as a garage porter in the Bronzeville neighborhood, where he developed an interest in the arts.⁴⁰¹ He spent some time studying painting at the SAIC and the Hull House before earning a position with the Chicago FAP. With aid from the WPA, he helped establish the SSCAC alongside Cortor, Sebree, White, and other notable Black artists. Similarities in style lead art historians to believe Ellison also worked closely with French immigrant Adrian Troy during his time with the SSCAC.⁴⁰²

Ellison's style and subject matter drew from his personal experience of place and movement, as well as his observations of Black poverty and joblessness during the Great Depression. He was particularly interested in the Great Migration, in which he was a participant, and worked to capture an intimate view of Black migrants in his works. He also produced several pieces depicting the underground world of policy wheel gambling, a popular pastime for the large portion of Black Americans denied employment during the 1930s.⁴⁰³

Ellison seemingly abandoned his artistic career in the post-war years. Though he may have continued painting privately, there are no records of additional pieces dated past this time. He remained in Chicago, working as

³⁹⁷ *1910 Census*, "Willie Ellison," Eatonton, Georgia. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/147706683:7884>, accessed October 25, 2022.

³⁹⁸ *US Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917–1918*, "Walter W. Ellison," April 1, 1918. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/467489:4906>, accessed October 25, 2022.

³⁹⁹ *1920 Census*, "Walter Ellison," Godfrey, Georgia. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4560955:6061>, accessed October 25, 2022.

⁴⁰⁰ *Georgia, US Marriage Records from Select Counties 1828–1978*, "Marriage License, Bibb County," July 22, 1923. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/965521:4766>, accessed October 25, 2022.

⁴⁰¹ *1930 Census*, "Walter Elson," Chicago, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/85058074:6224>, accessed October 25, 2022.

⁴⁰² Schulman D. n.d. "Walter Ellison." *Modernism in the New City: Chicago Artists, 1920–1950*. <https://www.chicagomodern.org/artists/walter-ellison>.

⁴⁰³ Schulman. n.d. "Walter Ellison."

a porter at a wholesale store into the 1950s.⁴⁰⁴ Ellison died in the city on 17 February 1977.⁴⁰⁵ His pieces are held in the Art Institute of Chicago, The St. Louis Art Museum, and the Chicago Public Library.⁴⁰⁶

3.11.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

The nature of Ellison's two pieces presented at Fort Huachuca—*The Story Book* (oil) and *Monotype* (print)—are unknown (no attributable images).

3.12 Felix Gaines (1908–1991)

3.12.1 Biography

Felix Gaines was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on 30 July 1908, where he was raised by his parents Thomas Gaines and Ada Duncan.⁴⁰⁷ Little is known about Gaines' childhood and education, though he remained in Birmingham through his adulthood. Gaines married Fannie Davis in 1928, and the pair had a daughter, Rosa Lee, the following year. At that time, Gaines was working as a laborer at a mattress factory, with no record of any artistic education or experience.⁴⁰⁸

By the late 1930s, Gaines had established himself as an artist. He was hired as part of the FAP to paint two murals in the WPA-funded Black community center in Selma. He completed the murals, entitled *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, and *Agriculture*, in 1937. *Swing Low* depicts a celestial chariot flying above a group of Black worshipers, while *Agriculture* shows a scene of Black farmers in the South.⁴⁰⁹ Both are done in Social Realist style.

⁴⁰⁴ 1950 Census, "Walter Ellison," Chicago, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/224433189:62308>, accessed October 25, 2022.

⁴⁰⁵ Cook County, Illinois Death Index, 1908–1988, "Walter W Ellison," Feb. 17, 1977. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3019600:1501>, accessed October 25, 2022.

⁴⁰⁶ Swann Auction Galleries. 2008. "Walter Ellison (1900–1977): *What A Man*." Catalogue, February 19, 2008. [https://catalogue.swanngalleries.com/Lots/auction-lot/WALTER-ELLISON-\(1900---1977\)-What-A-Man?saleno=2136&lotNo=37&refNo=597862](https://catalogue.swanngalleries.com/Lots/auction-lot/WALTER-ELLISON-(1900---1977)-What-A-Man?saleno=2136&lotNo=37&refNo=597862).

⁴⁰⁷ Alabama, US County Marriage Records, 1908–1967, "Felix Benjamin Gaines," Aug. 7, 1950. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/347602:61365>, accessed Oct. 27, 2022.

⁴⁰⁸ 1930 Census, "Felix B Gaines," Birmingham, Alabama. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/119579079:6224>, accessed October 27, 2022.

⁴⁰⁹ Wright, H. E. 2016. "Family Research Adds to Our Knowledge of Dr. George Washington Carver Portrait." National Museum of American History (blog), Feb. 26, 2016. <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/family-research-adds-our-knowledge-dr-george-washington-carver>.

Gaines' style changed significantly in the post-war years, both in style and scale. In 1946, Gaines created a portrait of George Washington Carver stylistically termed as a "Psycho Beautigraph Etching," a piece now housed in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Gaines likely invented this term, as very little information about it exists beyond this work. The textured black and white portrait does offer an intimate view of its subject, leading to the assumption that "psycho" points to psychology, or character investigation, in the work.⁴¹⁰ An article in the *St. Petersburg Evening Independent* reveals that Gaines made several portraits of Dr. Carver to put in Black schools and churches. His assistant, Elliot Robbins of the Tuskegee Institute, stated that he did so "with the idea of encouraging Negro youth to seek higher education, and at the same time [improve] race relations."⁴¹¹ Nearly two decades later, Gaines produced a similar etch portrait of recently deceased President John F. Kennedy surrounded by a spiderweb. The piece was titled *The Web of Freedom*, and likely represented a similar sentiment regarding race relations.⁴¹²

Very little is known of Gaines' later life, apart from a 1980 Alabama County record documenting his marriage to Mattie Louise Harris in Montgomery.⁴¹³ Gaines died in Birmingham in 1991. The following year, his Selma Community Center murals were relocated to the Old Depot Museum, also in Selma, where they remain today.⁴¹⁴

3.12.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Nothing is known about the style or subject of Gaines' oils featured at the Fort Huachuca exhibition, *Mural Sketch, No. 1* and *Mural Sketch, No. 2* (no attributable images). Based on the murals he created for the FAP a few years before the exhibition, it is possible that the sketches depict some aspect of Southern Black life in the Social Realist style. In correspondence from 24 April 1943, FAP director Holger Cahill remarked that Gaines had created the two sketches for a recreation center in Selma, Alabama. In his

⁴¹⁰ Wright H. E. 2015. "Intriguing Images of Dr. George Washington Carver." National Museum of American History (blog), Feb. 13, 2015, <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/george-washington-carver>.

⁴¹¹ Jordan, E. A. 1949. "Negro Schools, Churches to Get Carver Portraits." *St. Petersburg Evening Independent*, April 28, 1949. <https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&date=19490428&id=TV9PAAAAIAJ&sjid=gVUDAAAAIAJ&pg=3468,1036833&hl=en>.

⁴¹² Wright. 2016. "Family Research."

⁴¹³ "Alabama County Marriages, 1809–1950," "Felix Benjamin Gaines," January 18, 1980, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q61W-R13D>, accessed September 13, 2022.

⁴¹⁴ Wright. 2016. "Family Research."

estimation, Cahill thought they were significant for the folk poetry they embodied.⁴¹⁵

3.13 Theodore Gillien

No useful leads have surfaced regarding Theodore Gillien. This included investigation of public documents on Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, and FamilySearch.com. Gillien had one piece selected for the art show, a painting titled *Blues in Flood Time*. It is not known what this work looks like, and unfortunately, the obscurity of its creator makes it impossible to predict any characteristic features it may possess.

3.14 Knute Heldner (1877–1952)

3.14.1 Biography

Knute Heldner (referred to as “Holdner” on the exhibition program) was born on a small farm in Småland, Sweden, in 1877.⁴¹⁶ He was educated in Karlskrona and Stockholm before joining the Swedish Navy in his early teens. After several years of service on the North Sea, Heldner immigrated to the United States in 1902. Heldner moved frequently following his arrival, working a series of odd jobs in Wyoming, Minnesota, and Illinois.⁴¹⁷ During this time, he began painting, often using his work environment as inspiration. In 1915, Heldner presented for the first time at the Minnesota State Fair, where he won a gold medal for his painting.⁴¹⁸

Around that time, Heldner began pursuing art as a profession. He took classes at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, the SAIC, and the Art Students League in New York City before settling in Duluth, Minnesota, to teach at the Rachael McFadden Art Studio. He married his student, Colette Pope, in 1923. The couple honeymooned in New Orleans and later established a winter home in the city. Heldner was entranced by the life and landscape of New Orleans and would produce most of his works there.⁴¹⁹

⁴¹⁵ Holger Cahill to Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, April 24, 1943, Archives of American Art.

⁴¹⁶ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. “Heldner, Knute (1877–1952).” Artists.
<https://thejohnsoncollection.org/knute-heldner/>.

⁴¹⁷ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. “Heldner, Knute (1877–1952).”

⁴¹⁸ Saward S. 2012. “Knute Heldner.” *64 Parishes*, last updated March 24, 2021.
<https://64parishes.org/entry/knute-heldner>.

⁴¹⁹ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. “Heldner, Knute (1877–1952).”

Knute and Colette traveled seasonally between Duluth and New Orleans, creating and presenting their works in both locales. A series of exhibition awards and a grant from the city of Duluth allowed Heldner to continue his art studies in Europe. From 1929 to 1932, he traversed the continent to study Post-Impressionist style. European critics referred to his works as “*savage grandeur*” because of their beautiful, yet brutal expression of reality.⁴²⁰

Heldner was a self-proclaimed post-Impressionist, though he also demonstrated interest in Social Realism. Many of his early pieces were inspired by his experiences with hard labor and poverty shortly after his arrival in the United States. His annual immersion in New Orleans resulted in many landscape works, which showcased his post-impressionist leanings. Oil paintings of the bayou were Heldner’s best-selling works, though he retained a fascination with the range of human experience in the city and its rural surroundings.⁴²¹ During his employment with the Louisiana FAP, Heldner created fifty drypoint etchings depicting the structures and people of the French Quarter, as well as three murals examining Southern agrarian life.⁴²²

After his employment with the WPA, Heldner continued creating and teaching art. Knute and Colette shared a studio through the 1940s, spending a brief period in Saint Augustine before returning to New Orleans with their young daughter, Paulette.⁴²³ Back in Louisiana, Heldner taught art courses and gave art criticism lectures for the New Orleans Art League. He also attempted playwriting, composed short stories, and wrote a series of philosophical essays contending with suffering and the divine in the aftermath of global conflict.⁴²⁴ By the 1950s, Heldner’s creative production stalled due to illness and severe marital strife. He died in New Orleans in November 1952.⁴²⁵ Heldner’s works are housed at Louisiana State University and the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, as well as in few European galleries.⁴²⁶

⁴²⁰ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. “Heldner, Knute (1877–1952).”

⁴²¹ Saward. 2012. “Knute Heldner.”

⁴²² Johnson Collection, The. n.d. “Heldner, Knute (1877–1952).”

⁴²³ 1940 Census. “Knute Heldner.” St. Augustine, Florida. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/130318619:2442>, accessed October 24, 2022.

⁴²⁴ Saward. 2012. “Knute Heldner.”

⁴²⁵ Find a Grave. 2015. “Sven August Knute Heldner.” Memorials, added April 15, 2015. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145073260/sven-august_knute-heldner.

⁴²⁶ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. “Heldner, Knute (1877–1952).”

3.14.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

The Flood is a black and white etching featured at the Fort Huachuca exhibition (Figure 59). Based on the medium and content, it is possible that the print is a part of the collection Heldner produced during his employment with the Louisiana FAP. Regardless, the style and subject of *The Flood* show Heldner's engagement with Social Realism, though the piece is not representative of a majority of his works.⁴²⁷ With Heldner being born in Sweden and identifying himself as "white" on various US census forms, he is included in the group of seven artists at the exhibit who identified as a white person.

Figure 59. Knute Heldner (1877–1952), *The Flood*, c. 1937, etching, 7 1/2 in. × 8 3/4 in., Weisman Art Museum, exhibit number 48. (Used with permission from Weisman Art Museum. Applicable rights reserved.)⁴²⁸



⁴²⁷ Johnson Collection, The. n.d. "Heldner, Knute (1877–1952)."

⁴²⁸ Knute Heldner, "The Flood," Weisman Art Museum, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://weisman.emuseum.com/objects/924/the-flood>.

3.15 Humbert Howard (1905–1990)

3.15.1 Biography

The birth year of Humbert Howard is widely debated; some records state he was born in 1905, while others contest he was born in 1915. However, it is known that his birthplace was Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is where he spent most of his productive life. During his youth, Howard had an interest in art as well as other activities; in high school, he involved himself with Art Club, Varsity Football, and Varsity Track.⁴²⁹ He eventually settled on art, and attended Howard University in Washington, DC, the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania, and the International Academy of Arts and Letters in Rome.⁴³⁰

Howard rose to prominence in the 1930s and finished the decade showing his paintings at the 1939–1940 World’s Fair in New York City. The following year, he became Director of the Pyramid Club, an artistic organization created in 1937 for the “cultural, civic, and social advancement” of the local Black community (see Section 2.8).⁴³¹ Howard held this position for 18 years, stepping down in 1958. Under Howard’s leadership, the Pyramid Club began to adopt a more integrationist stance, allowing both Black and White artists to submit works for the club’s shows based on their merit. During his time with the Pyramid Club, Howard’s output became more modernist as he became acclimated with the works of contemporary artists around him (Figure 60 and Figure 61).⁴³²

⁴²⁹ *West Philadelphia High School Yearbook*. 1933, 77. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/82737638:1265>, accessed December 8, 2022.

⁴³⁰ Humbert-Howard.com. n.d. “Humbert Howard.” Accessed December 8, 2022. <https://humbert-howard.com/>; Mosley, J. W. 1951. “Humbert Howard at a Pyramid Club Garden Party.” July 1, 1951. Temple Digital Collections-Temple University. <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll17/id/681/>.

⁴³¹ Brigham. 2008. “The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.”

⁴³² Brigham. 2008. “The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.”

Figure 60. Humbert Howard (*far right*) at the Pyramid Club. (Used with permission from Temple University. Applicable rights reserved.)⁴³³



Figure 61. Humbert Howard (*second from right*) at the Pyramid Club. (Used with permission from Temple University. Applicable rights reserved.)⁴³⁴



⁴³³ John W. Mosley, "Humbert Howard at a Pyramid Club Garden Party," Temple University Libraries, July 1, 1951, <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll17/id/681>.

⁴³⁴ John W. Mosley, "Dox Thrash and Humbert Howard at a Pyramid Club Art Exhibition," Temple University Libraries, 1944, <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll17/id/559/>.

Howard remained active with the Pyramid Club following the art exhibit at Fort Huachuca. In 1960, he became a member of the Philadelphia Art Alliance. He maintained this membership for 30 years. In 1970, he was awarded an Honorary Degree and Silver Metal for his painting abilities by the International Academy of Arts and Letters. Howard died in his hometown of Philadelphia in 1990.⁴³⁵

3.15.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Howard had one piece selected for the 1943 exhibit at Fort Huachuca, a painting titled *The Gardener's House*. It is not known what this composition looked like. If it is anything like his other works, this painting may have a vibrant color palette and an abstract arrangement of features.⁴³⁶

3.16 Sargent Claude Johnson (1887–1967)

3.16.1 Biography

Sargent Claude Johnson was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1887. Johnson was one of six children born to an Afro-Indigenous mother and a father of Swedish descent. Due to their light skin tone, many of the children chose to identify themselves as white people. Sargent, meanwhile, maintained a lifelong connection with his Black heritage (Figure 62) and identified himself as a Black person.⁴³⁷ This cultural connection was bolstered by Johnson's relationship with his aunt, May Howard Jackson. In 1902, following the death of both of their parents, Sargent and his siblings moved to live with their aunt and uncle in Washington, DC. May Howard Jackson was a prominent sculptor, typically producing works that reflected traditional African art.⁴³⁸

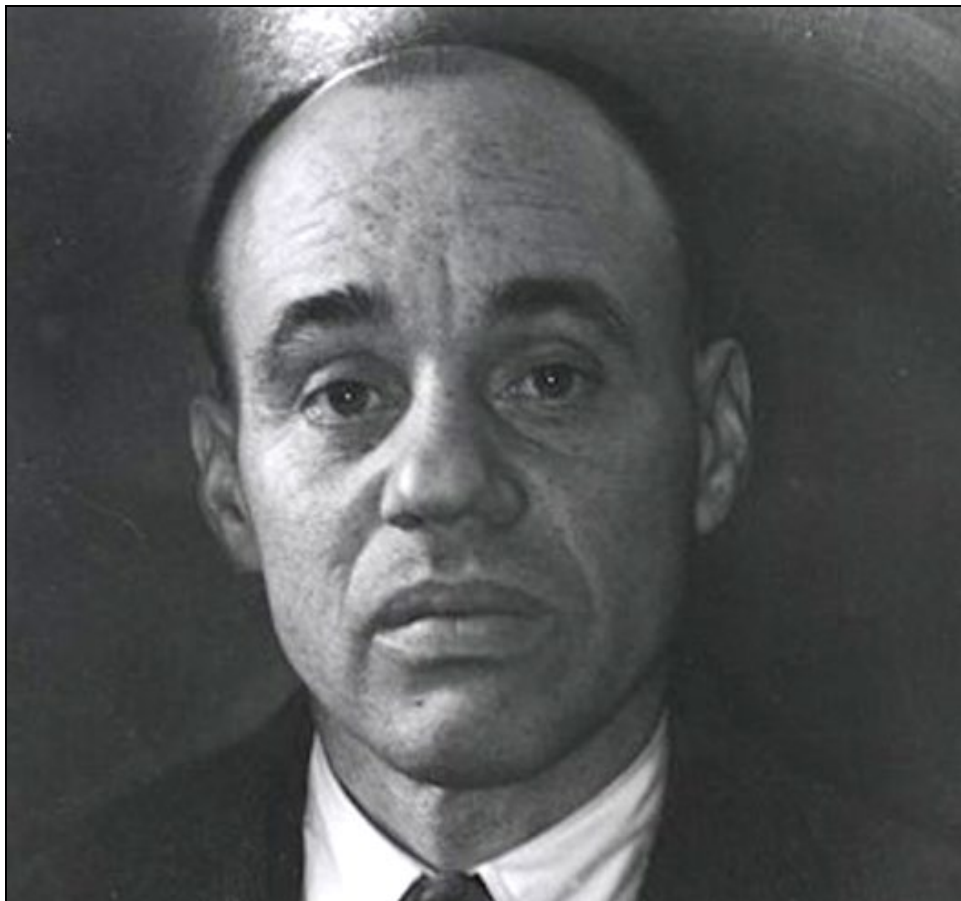
⁴³⁵ Howard Heartsfield Studio and Gallery. n.d. "Humbert Howard." Humbert Howard. <http://howardheartsfieldgallery.com/humbert-howard.html>.

⁴³⁶ Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. n.d. "Humbert L. Howard." Collection. <https://www.pafa.org/museum/collection-artist/humbert-l-howard>.

⁴³⁷ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Sargent Johnson." Art + Artists. <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/sargent-johnson-2484>.

⁴³⁸ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 123–124.

Figure 62. Sargent Claude Johnson in 1934. (Used with permission from Brooklyn Museum. Applicable rights reserved.)⁴³⁹



Johnson began his artistic education at Worcester Art School in Massachusetts before moving to San Francisco to attend the A.W. Best School of Art. He studied there from 1915 to 1919 under Neo-Impressionists Alice and Arthur Best.⁴⁴⁰ Johnson, however, never adopted the Neo-Impressionist style. Rather, he specialized in a “reductive Modernist style of sculpture” which he learned from instructor Ralph Stackpole at the California School of Fine Arts.⁴⁴¹ Johnson attended the California School of Fine Arts, now called the San Francisco Art Institute, until 1923. He remained in California with his wife and young daughter, working for a time as a frame-maker at an art store.⁴⁴²

⁴³⁹ Kanaga, Consuelo. 1934. “Sargent Johnson,” Brooklyn Museum. <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/164676/>.

⁴⁴⁰ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 124.

⁴⁴¹ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 124.

⁴⁴² 1930 Census. “Sargent C Johnson,” Berkeley City, California. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCXN-SPR>, accessed October 5, 2022.

During the late 1920s and 1930s, Johnson created sculptures, ceramics, and bas-reliefs prolifically. His work gained national recognition in 1926, when the Harmon Foundation in New York City included his work in an exhibition. The foundation maintained a relationship with Johnson, and over the next several years, he won the Otto H. Kahn prize, the Bronze Award, and the Robert C. Ogden prize for his works displayed in Harmon exhibitions.⁴⁴³ In the late 1930s, the WPA sponsored a few of Johnson's major projects, including a 24-foot-long redwood relief organ screen for the California School for the Deaf and Blind and the interior design of the San Francisco Maritime Museum in Aquatic Park.⁴⁴⁴

After the war years, Johnson took several trips to Mexico, where he drew inspiration from Mexican muralists. Art Historian James Porter noted that Johnson "managed to achieve something of the suppleness of fancy and monumentality of design that we associate with Diego Rivera."⁴⁴⁵ After these travels, he began incorporating Mexican culture and indigenous people into his works.⁴⁴⁶ He continued traveling and creating until his death in 1967. His artistic legacy survives in permanent exhibitions in the San Francisco area and nationally.⁴⁴⁷

3.16.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Johnson's works were known for emphasizing the beauty and dignity of the natural, with focus on wildlife and Black American individuals. His simple terracotta sculpture, *Hippo* (Figure 63), reflected this sentiment. Many of Johnson's surviving sculptures, particularly his busts utilize terracotta, though he was known to use metals, wood, and ceramic, as well. He also created several full-body figures from black Oaxacan clay.⁴⁴⁸ The material and style of Johnson's second sculpture included at Fort Huachuca, *Woman*, is unknown.

⁴⁴³ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 133.

⁴⁴⁴ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Sargent Johnson."

⁴⁴⁵ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 118.

⁴⁴⁶ US Department of State. n.d. "Sargent Johnson." Art in Embassies. https://art.state.gov/personnel/sargent_johnson/.

⁴⁴⁷ Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. "Sargent Johnson;" San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. n.d. "Sargent Johnson." Artist. https://www.sfmoma.org/artist/Sargent_Johnson/.

⁴⁴⁸ Invaluable. n.d. "Sold at Auction: Sargent Claude Johnson." Artists. <https://www.invaluable.com/artist/johnson-sargent-claude-jxwdf5osr/sold-at-auction-prices/?sort=priceDesc&page=1>.

Figure 63. Sargent Claude Johnson (1887–1967), *Hippo*, 1939, glazed ceramic, 6 in. × 25 in. × 8 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 85. (Used with permission from *Art in Washington and its Afro-American Presence: 1940–1970*. Applicable rights reserved.)⁴⁴⁹



3.17 Lawrence Jones (1910–1996)

3.17.1 Biography

Lawrence Jones was born on Christmas Day, 1910, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Jones was notably proud of his heritage, as his mother was alleged to be descended from Sally Hemings.⁴⁵⁰ His family also had a deep engagement with the arts, which encouraged Jones and his siblings to pursue careers in the creative realm. Jones' father worked as a choral director, and his siblings would go on to become sculptors and musicians.⁴⁵¹ Jones developed a serious interest in the visual arts as a high school student, and the Lynchburg community quickly recognized his talent. At the time of Jones' graduation, a group of Lynchburg residents pooled enough money to send him to study at the SAIC, where he studied from 1934 to 1936.⁴⁵²

⁴⁴⁹ Sargent Johnson, "Hippo," reproduced from Keith Morrison, *Art in Washington and its Afro-American Presence: 1940–1970* (Washington Project for the Arts), accessed December 9, 2022, http://keithmorrison.com/?page_id=1228.

⁴⁵⁰ Sally Hemings was an enslaved women in Thomas Jefferson's household. It is believed that Jefferson was the father of several of Hemings' children. Monticello. n.d. "Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: A Brief Account." Jefferson & Slavery. <https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson/jefferson-slavery/thomas-jefferson-and-sally-hemings-a-brief-account/>; Crouther, B. J. 2017. "Lawrence Arthur Jones." *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/lawrence-arthur-jones/>.

⁴⁵¹ Clarion-Ledger. 1967. "Jackson State Artist in International Show." *Clarion-Ledger*, February 12, 1967. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/180613010>.

⁴⁵² Clarion-Ledger. 1967. "Jackson State Artist in International Show."

Jones was very active in the mid-1930s Chicago art scene. While still a student, he acted as the artist in residence for the Hull House and found work with the Illinois FAP.⁴⁵³ Based on his works, Jones resonated deeply with the strife of urban laborers during the Great Depression. Most of his pieces at the time reflected Chicago living, showing both the large-scale “ghetto” community and images of individual despair. Jones carried concern for the working class throughout his artistic career and personal life.⁴⁵⁴

In 1937, Jones moved to New Orleans to pursue a teaching career in Dillard University’s art department. He spent the next few years as both teacher and student, instructing painting courses while taking classes to complete his own degree. He graduated from Dillard in 1940.⁴⁵⁵ Shortly after his graduation, Jones took a teaching position at Fort Valley State University in Georgia.⁴⁵⁶

The early 1940s offered Jones many new and unexpected career opportunities. In 1941, Jones traveled to Mexico City with a Rosenwald Fellowship to study with the *Taller de Gráfica Popular*. There, Jones was inspired by the Mexican muralist style and the antifascist, prolabor, leftist leanings of the group, both of which would inspire his later efforts.⁴⁵⁷ Unfortunately, his time in Mexico was cut short. Jones was drafted into the Army in late 1941 and departed immediately to Fort McClellan, Alabama. He served as an illustrator, creating visual training aids and producing a mural for the fort’s Enlisted Men’s Service Club entitled *Courage, Fraternity, Strength*.⁴⁵⁸ He returned to Fort Valley after the war and married a Cuban woman named María Luisa Ramírez.⁴⁵⁹

For the next several decades, Jones’ artistic career flourished, informed by his ideological resolve. His works became overtly anti-imperialist and anticapitalist, and themes of racial equity came to the fore. Outside of the

⁴⁵³ Black Art Story. 2020b. “Profile: Laurence Arthur Jones (1910–1996).” Uncategorized (blog). <https://blackartstory.org/2020/11/25/profile-lawrence-arthur-jones-1910-1996/>.

⁴⁵⁴ Swanson, L. N. 2007. “Lawrence Arthur Jones (1910–1996): Black Artist and Southern Educator.” *Southeastern College Art Conference Review* 15 (2): 169. [https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Lawrence Arthur Jones \(1910-1996\): black artist and Southern educator.-a0192353191](https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Lawrence+Arthur+Jones+(1910-1996):+black+artist+and+Southern+educator.-a0192353191).

⁴⁵⁵ Crouther. 2017. “Lawrence Arthur Jones.”

⁴⁵⁶ Crouther. 2017. “Lawrence Arthur Jones.”

⁴⁵⁷ Art Institute Chicago. n.d. “Taller de Gráfica Popular (Mexico City, Mexico).” Artists. <https://www.artic.edu/artists/72887/taller-de-grafica-popular-mexico-city-mexico>.

⁴⁵⁸ Crouther. 2017. “Lawrence Arthur Jones.”

⁴⁵⁹ Crouther. 2017. “Lawrence Arthur Jones.”

studio, Jones acted as a vice chairman for the People's Progressive Party of Georgia, an interracial platform battling against the Ku Klux Klan, federal poll taxes, the government loyalty order, and unjust employment legislation.⁴⁶⁰ Administrators at Jackson State University recognized Jones' artistic and political value and invited him to establish an art department in 1949. Jones taught there until his retirement in 1978.⁴⁶¹ His art received more praise in these later years than ever before. In the 1960s, he won several awards for his oil paintings depicting the Black American experience. His prints were also selected by the American Soviet Friendship Society to tour Russia in 1966.⁴⁶² Additionally, Jones traveled to several African nations in 1974 with the Educators to Africa Association.⁴⁶³

Jones died in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1996. As an artist and educator, Jones had a strong impact on his Southern communities even beyond his death.⁴⁶⁴ His legacy remains in the large gallery of Harlem Renaissance and continental African art present at Jackson State University, as well as in his personal works located in several prominent collections.⁴⁶⁵

3.17.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Jones presented two prints at the Fort Huachuca exhibition: *St. Louis Cathedral* and *Wagon* (no attributable images). Most of the artist's other surviving works are black and white lithographs, so it is possible that the two prints were created in the same medium. *St. Louis Cathedral* was likely inspired by the church of the same name in New Orleans, where Jones studied and taught. The contents of *Wagon* are unknown but may follow Jones' preferred subject matter to depict labor or mobility in the Depression-era working class.

⁴⁶⁰ Macon News, The. 1948. "Party Defers Naming Man for Governor." *The Macon News*. May 9, 1948. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/823750389/>.

⁴⁶¹ Swanson. 2007. "Lawrence Arthur Jones (1910–1996): Black Artist and Southern Educator."

⁴⁶² Clarion-Ledger. 1967. "Jackson State Artist in International Show."

⁴⁶³ Crouther. 2017. "Lawrence Arthur Jones."

⁴⁶⁴ Swanson. 2007. "Lawrence Arthur Jones (1910–1996): Black Artist and Southern Educator."

⁴⁶⁵ Jackson State University. n.d. "Permanent Collection." Art Gallery. <https://www.jsu.edu/theartgallery/permanent-collection/>.

3.18 Paul Laessle (1908–1988)

3.18.1 Biography

Paul Laessle was born on 21 December 1908, in Germantown, Pennsylvania. A descendant of immigrant German grandparents, Laessle was among a handful of White artists who participated in Fort Huachuca's 1943 exhibit. His father, Albert, was a renowned sculptor and member of the National Academy of Design. Paul's mother, Mary, was also a professional sculptor and portrait painter, though census data does not indicate that she was officially employed.⁴⁶⁶

Laessle's adolescence is largely undocumented, though his parents likely laid the foundations for his artistic career. In the early 1930s, Laessle attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, where his father was an instructor. It is unknown if Paul ever studied with his father, who is best known for his animal sculptures. Regardless, Paul never adopted his father's preferred medium, and instead dedicated himself to watercolor portraiture and lithograph printing. His impressionist portrait style was inspired both by his mother's works and his multiple periods of study in Europe, funded by the Cresson Travelling Scholarship.⁴⁶⁷

In the late 1930s, Laessle was employed by the Pennsylvania WPA. He showed many watercolor pieces in WPA-sponsored exhibits, including the New York World's Fair (April 1939–October 1940). The same year, he presented a one-man show at the Philadelphia School of Industrial Art, introducing carborundum prints to his repertoire (see Footnote 115).⁴⁶⁸ Laessle was also working as a freelance artist and photographer at the time.⁴⁶⁹ The outbreak of war briefly reoriented Laessle's career path, and he worked as a military mechanic for a few years before becoming the artist in residence for the Maritime Service Training Station in Sheepshead Bay, New York, in 1945.⁴⁷⁰

⁴⁶⁶ 1910 Census. "Paul Laessle." Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/103924424:7884>, accessed October 14, 2022.

⁴⁶⁷ Frankel, A. R. 2022. "Laessle, Paul____Miami." In *Artists of Old Florida*.
https://artistsofoldflorida.com/artist/laessle-paul____miami/.

⁴⁶⁸ Frankel. 2022. "Laessle, Paul____Miami." Description of carborundum prints in section 2.5 *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists at Fort Huachuca*, 1943.

⁴⁶⁹ 1940 Census. "Paul Laessle," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Accessed October 14, 2022,
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/22591092:2442>.

⁴⁷⁰ Frankel. 2022. "Laessle, Paul____Miami."

After the war, Laessle relocated to Miami. There, he worked as a travelling artist, taking his “painting wagon” around the state to paint watercolor landscapes and portraits. He later earned a teaching position at Terry Art Institute, where he was employed until 1956.⁴⁷¹ Laessle remained in Florida until his death in 1988. A few of his prints are now held in the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Gallery of Art.⁴⁷²

3.18.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

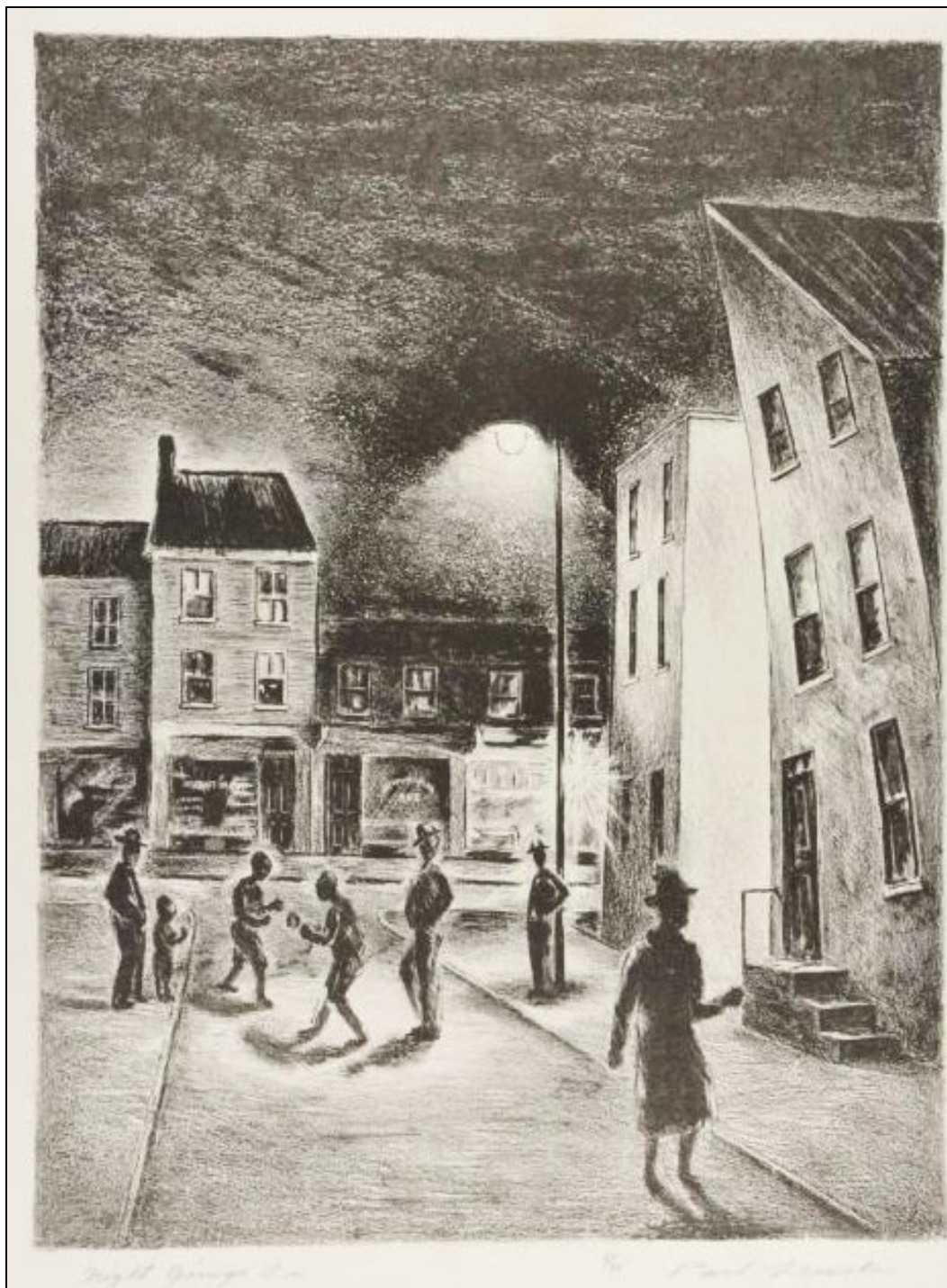
It is unclear why FAP director Cahill selected one of Laessle’s pieces for the Fort Huachuca exhibition, as his works did not commonly depict Black individuals or culture. His work, a black and white lithograph entitled *Night Goings On*, shows several shadowed figures gathered under a streetlight and does not offer a clear explanation regarding its inclusion in the exhibit (Figure 64).⁴⁷³ It is possible that Laessle had a connection with one of the many presenting artists also based in Philadelphia (Humbert Howard, Raymond Steth, Dox Thrash, and others), which brought his work to the attention of Cahill.

⁴⁷¹ Frankel. 2022. “Laessle, Paul___Miami.”

⁴⁷² Smithsonian American Art Museum. n.d. “Paul Laessle, Works by this Artist.” Art + Artists. <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/paul-laessle-2759>; Baltimore Museum of Art. n.d. “Paul Laessle, *Night Goings On*, c. 1935–1943.” Search the Collection. <https://collection.artbma.org/search/Laessle>.

⁴⁷³ Baltimore Museum of Art. n.d. “Paul Laessle, *Night Goings On*, c. 1935–1943.”

Figure 64. Paul Laessle (1908–1988), *Night Goings On*, c. 1935–1939, lithograph, 12 3/8 in. × 9 3/8 in., Baltimore Museum of Art, exhibit number 43 (Used with permission from Baltimore Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)⁴⁷⁴



⁴⁷⁴ “Paul Laessle, *Night Goings On*, c. 1935–1943.” Baltimore Museum of Art, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://collection.artbma.org/search/Laessle>.

3.19 Elba Lightfoot (1907–1989)

3.19.1 Biography

One of two women among the 36 artists, Elba Lightfoot was born around 1907. Census records of her birthplace vary over the decades, listing Kansas, Arkansas, and Illinois as possible locations.⁴⁷⁵ The Lightfoot family settled in Evanston, Illinois, by 1910. Elba and her four younger siblings would reside there until the 1930s. Her father worked as a plasterer and her mother was privately employed as a housekeeper.⁴⁷⁶

Lightfoot had an interest in professional art from a young age, though she often had to work odd jobs to support her creative development. In her late teenage years, she had established herself as a local artist with her own listing in the Evanston City Directory.⁴⁷⁷ In 1930, Lightfoot was officially employed as a private household cook.⁴⁷⁸ The position offered her sufficient funds to relocate to New York City the following year. There, Lightfoot took classes at the Grand Central Academy of Fine Arts.⁴⁷⁹

Lightfoot immersed herself in the city's art scene over the next several years, often contending with discrimination based on both race and gender. Lightfoot engaged with other Black artists and academics to establish the Harlem Artists Guild in 1935, using the group as a platform to promote the visual arts and address issues of social and political inequity.⁴⁸⁰ The rise of the WPA in New York fueled the Guild's activity, as Black artists—particularly female Black artists—were frequently overlooked in WPA projects and administrative boards.⁴⁸¹

In 1936, the WPA supported Lightfoot and several other Black artists in the Harlem Hospital Center project, one of the first large-scale federal

⁴⁷⁵ 1910 Census indicates Arkansas, 1920 and 1930 Censes indicate Kansas, and 1950 census indicates Illinois as Lightfoot's birthplace.

⁴⁷⁶ 1930 Census. "Elba Lightfoot," Evanston City, Illinois.
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/25119201:6224>, accessed October 20, 2022.

⁴⁷⁷ US City Directories, 1822–1995. "Evanston, Illinois, City Directory, 1927."
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/361846994:2469>, accessed October 20, 2022.

⁴⁷⁸ 1930 Census, "Elba Lightfoot."

⁴⁷⁹ New York Age. 1931. "Social News." *The New York Age*, September 19, 1931.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/40793837>.

⁴⁸⁰ Patton. 1998. *African-American Art*, 147.

⁴⁸¹ Patton. 1998. *African-American Art*, 147.

commissions offered to Black creators.⁴⁸² Lightfoot composed a mural entitled *Toy Parade* for the pediatric department. The inclusion of Black motifs brought criticism from the hospital's superintendent, who initially rejected several artists' mural designs. Charles Alston, a co-founder of the Harlem Artists Guild and leader of the WPA project, accused the superintendent of racial discrimination, and public outcry eventually led to the reversal of the decision.⁴⁸³

Lightfoot was an active member of the Harlem Community Art Center and other local art-based movements. Her works, including mural segments and portraits, were often included in the Art Center's exhibitions.⁴⁸⁴ She was also involved in the Riverdale Children's Association, participating in auction benefits as a member of the artists committee.⁴⁸⁵ Most of these works have been lost, and thematic focus and style of Lightfoot's work is unclear, apart from her contribution to the Harlem Hospital (Figure 65).

There are few records of Lightfoot's postwar artistic career. She likely continued painting privately, though was officially employed at a baking company as of 1950. She remained involved in the city's creative scene, as she and her husband, Alberto De Reyes, lived with stage actress Evelyn Davis, who also engaged with racial equity movements in the arts.⁴⁸⁶ Lightfoot died in Manhattan in 1989.⁴⁸⁷

⁴⁸² Living New Deal, The. n.d. "Harlem Hospital: Lightfoot Mural—New York NY." Projects. <https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/harlem-hospital-murals-new-york-ny/>.

⁴⁸³ New York Times. 1936. "RACE BIAS CHARGED BY NEGRO ARTISTS; L.T. Dermody, Harlem Hospital Head, Accused of Rejecting 4 of 6 Murals." *The New York Times*, February 22, 1936. <https://www.nytimes.com/1936/02/22/archives/race-bias-charged-by-negro-artists-lt-dermody-harlem-hospital-head.html>.

⁴⁸⁴ Tildon, W. 1940. "Harlem Community Art Center." *The New York Age*, February 10, 1940. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/40888951>.

⁴⁸⁵ Finger, M. E. 1945. "By Way of Mention." *The New York Age*, June 16, 1945. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/40850754>.

⁴⁸⁶ 1950 Census. "Elba De Reyes." Manhattan, New York. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/294622226:62308>, accessed October 24, 2022; Social Networks and Archival Context. n.d. "Biography." Davis, Evelyn, 1906–1982. <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w62f937q>.

⁴⁸⁷ Find a Grave. 2010. "Elba Reyes." Memorials, added April 5, 2010. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50673077/elba-reyes>.

Figure 65. Elba Lightfoot and her mural, "Mother Goose Rhymes," at Harlem Hospital (Image reproduced from Smithsonian Archives of American Art. Public domain.)⁴⁸⁸



3.19.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Mural Panel, an oil painting by Lightfoot, was included in the Fort Huachuca exhibition (no attributable image). The title of the piece and the absence of other works by the artist precludes any conjecture about the painting's subject matter and style.

3.20 Edward Loper (1916–2011)

3.20.1 Biography

Edward Loper, Sr., was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on 7 April 1916. His parents were very young, so Loper's grandmother was responsible for a great

⁴⁸⁸ Charles Eisenman, Elba Lightfoot, January 14, 1938, photograph, Federal Art Project, Photographic Division collection, circa 1920-1965. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/items/detail/elba-lightfoot-2232>.

deal of his upbringing. In his young years, it seemed that Loper would grow to be a professional athlete rather than a professional artist. He showed great talent on both his football and basketball teams at Howard High School, even earning an athletic scholarship at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University. Unfortunately, his family's financial circumstances prevented him from attending college, and he entered the workforce shortly after graduating high school.⁴⁸⁹

In the late 1930s, Loper earned a position with the Delaware WPA Easel Division, despite having no prior record of artistic experience.⁴⁹⁰ Loper was tasked with producing illustrations of American furniture and décor. Over his four-year stint with the WPA, he created over one hundred illustrations to be catalogued in the Index of American Design in Washington, DC.⁴⁹¹ His folk-realist depictions revealed his artistic talent for detail and precision and awoke his creative passions. He began to study art independently, taking weekend trips to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to expand his knowledge and skill. Loper was quickly recognized as a natural talent, becoming the first Black artist to present at the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts only a year after beginning work for the WPA.⁴⁹²

After his time with the WPA, Loper worked at the Allied Kid leather tanning factory until 1947. He then began his teaching career and would instruct art students at various institutions before opening his own studio. Loper taught painting for over 20 years before he received formal instruction himself. In 1963, he received an invitation to study at the Barnes Foundation in Pennsylvania and spent many years taking classes with the Foundation's director, Violette de Mazia.⁴⁹³ Throughout his career as a student and educator, he gradually adopted a post-modernist style. He mostly created cityscapes, along with a few portraits and human subject genre scenes. Loper's later works featured increasingly vibrant colors and strong cubist influences, mainly drawn from Picasso and Cézanne.⁴⁹⁴

Before Loper's death in 2011, multiple Delaware art institutions hosted retrospective exhibitions that featured nearly 70 years' worth of art. In

⁴⁸⁹ African American Registry. n.d. "Edward Loper Sr, Artist Born." Today's Stories. <https://aaregistry.org/story/edward-loper-sr-artist-born/>.

⁴⁹⁰ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 134.

⁴⁹¹ African American Registry. n.d. "Edward Loper Sr, Artist Born."

⁴⁹² African American Registry. n.d. "Edward Loper Sr, Artist Born."

⁴⁹³ African American Registry. n.d. "Edward Loper Sr, Artist Born."

⁴⁹⁴ African American Registry. n.d. "Edward Loper Sr, Artist Born."

honor of his career, Delaware State University named Loper an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts. He also received the Governor's Award for the Arts. Loper's works remain in many permanent collections, including those at the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Delaware Art Museum, and the Corcoran Gallery. His personal and artistic legacy also lives on through his son, Edward Loper, Jr., who is also a professional artist.⁴⁹⁵

3.20.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

The nature of Loper's *McCauley Street*, shown at Fort Huachuca, is unknown (no attributable image). Based on the title, the piece likely reflects the characteristics of Loper's early independent works—warmly colored oil landscape depictions of areas in and around the artist's hometown.⁴⁹⁶

3.21 John C. Lutz (1908–1988)

3.21.1 Biography

Lutz was born in Hickory, North Carolina, on 27 July 1908. Little is known about Lutz's childhood, apart from the fact that he was a predominantly self-taught artist. By his early twenties, Lutz had relocated to Atlantic City, New Jersey. There, he worked days while taking evening art classes at a local high school.⁴⁹⁷

Lutz moved to Cincinnati a few years later and began working for the local FAP Mural Division. There, he produced murals for the Harriet Beecher Stowe School before transferring to the Easel Division, where he worked until 1940. In that time, Lutz presented his work at the Cincinnati Museum and the Cleveland Federal Art Gallery.⁴⁹⁸ He also showed at the 1940 *American Negro Exhibition* alongside many other artists featured at Fort Huachuca, and it is likely there that he secured a place in the 1943 exhibit.

Lutz submitted a draft registration card in his last year of employment with the Ohio WPA. There is no concrete record stating that Lutz enlisted in the military. However, immigration and naturalization records show that Lutz took multiple trips to the Pacific in the mid-1940s. In 1947, he journeyed

⁴⁹⁵ National Gallery of Art. n.d. "Edward L. Loper." Collection. <https://www.nga.gov/collection/artist-info.7782.html>.

⁴⁹⁶ African American Registry. n.d. "Edward Loper Sr, Artist Born."

⁴⁹⁷ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 134.

⁴⁹⁸ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 134.

from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco on the USS *Breckinridge*, part of the postwar commissioned fleet responsible for transporting servicemembers and their dependents.⁴⁹⁹ At that time, Lutz was unmarried and childless, possibly traveling in some military capacity.

By 1948, Lutz had returned to North Carolina, where he married Occie Settles.⁵⁰⁰ The couple had a son, John Choram Lutz, Jr., on 17 May 1949.⁵⁰¹ The family was living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at the time, with Lutz employed as a building contractor.⁵⁰² There is no record of any additional art production for the remainder of Lutz's life. He died in Hennepin, Minnesota, on 28 June 1988.⁵⁰³

3.21.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

At Fort Huachuca, Lutz presented an oil painting entitled *Early Snow* (no attributable image). The lack of preserved works by the artist precludes any commentary on his technique or style.

3.22 Edmond Malnate (1916–2003)

3.22.1 Biography

Edmond Malnate was born on 16 July 1916, in Quincy, Massachusetts.⁵⁰⁴ Like several other artists who participated in Fort Huachuca's 1943 art exhibit (such as Stuart Bruce, Theodore Gillien, and Lonnie Moore), little is known about Malnate's productive years or the circumstances which cultivated his interest in the arts. As with Stuart Bruce, census data provides a general impression of Malnate's upbringing. While still a child, Malnate moved to Philadelphia, where his father worked as a ship fitter in

⁴⁹⁹ *Honolulu, Hawaii, US Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1900–1959*. "John C Lutz," April 9, 1947. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3096132:1502>, accessed October 4, 2022; Naval History and Heritage Command. 2020. "General J.C. Breckinridge (AP-176)." Ship Histories, January 24, 2020. <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/general-j-0-breckinridge-ap-176.html>.

⁵⁰⁰ *North Carolina, US Marriage Records, 1741–2011*. "John C Lutz." October 10, 1948. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2053013:60548>, accessed October 3, 2022.

⁵⁰¹ *North Carolina, US Birth Indexes, 1800–2000*. "John Choram Lutz." <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/470571:8783>, accessed October 3, 2022.

⁵⁰² 1950 Census. "John C Lutz." Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/245739595:62308>, accessed October 4, 2022.

⁵⁰³ *US Social Security Death Index*. "John C. Lutz." June 28, 1988. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/37963094:3693>, accessed October 3, 2022.

⁵⁰⁴ *World War II Draft Cards*. "Edmond V. Malnate," October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5325013:2238>, accessed August 19, 2022.

a local shipyard.⁵⁰⁵ Malnate spent most of his productive adult years in Philadelphia, where he found work in advertising.⁵⁰⁶ By 1940, he had secured a job as a WPA artist at 510 South Broad Street—a Philadelphia mansion which, until the 1930s, housed the city’s renowned John G. Johnson Art Collection.⁵⁰⁷ Malnate later found work as a draftsman before enlisting in the Army in February 1943.⁵⁰⁸

A descendant of French-Canadian and Italian grandparents, Malnate was among a handful of White artists who participated in Fort Huachuca’s 1943 exhibit.⁵⁰⁹ Like other White artists featured in the exhibit, Malnate may have participated in the show because his body of work depicted Black individuals or themes related to the Black experience in America.

After the war, Malnate resumed his artistic career. In 1946, he collaborated with other veterans to produce a set of children’s books, of which Malnate wrote and illustrated at least one selection, entitled *Tuffy*.⁵¹⁰ By 1950, Malnate was working once again in the Philadelphia advertising industry, where he likely used his skills to produce visual layouts. Malnate’s career advanced steadily and by the late 1950s, he became art director of the Ullman Organization, a Philadelphia advertising firm.⁵¹¹ Malnate died on 6 November 2003 at the age of 87.⁵¹²

3.22.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Malnate submitted one piece for the 1943 exhibit, a print he titled *Tobacco Rows* (Figure 66). Completed in 1941, *Tobacco Rows* is a carborundum

⁵⁰⁵ 1920 Census. “Edmond B Malnate.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/77229643:6061>, accessed August 19, 2022.

⁵⁰⁶ 1940 Census. “Edmond Malnate.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/23927259:2442>, accessed August 19, 2022.

⁵⁰⁷ World War II Draft Cards. “Edmond V. Malnate;” Finkel, K. 2017. “The John G. Johnson Art Collection on Broad Street.” The PhillyHistory Blog (blog), December 15, 2017. <https://blog.phillyhistory.org/index.php/2017/12/the-john-g-johnson-art-collection-on-broad-street/>.

⁵⁰⁸ World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938–1946. “Edmond V Malnate.” February 20, 1943. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7247240:8939>, accessed September 16, 2022.

⁵⁰⁹ 1920 Census, “Edmond B Malnate.”

⁵¹⁰ Dothan Eagle. 1946. “Ex-GI’s Form Book Concern Wows Kids.” *The Dothan Eagle*, July 11, 1946. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/538359626>.

⁵¹¹ Philadelphia Inquirer. 1959. “Advertising Highlights.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Apr. 6, 1959. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/177695326>.

⁵¹² US Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007. “Edmond Virgil Malnate.” <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/37469848:60901>, accessed Sept. 16, 2022.

mezzotint print produced from a 6 in. × 9 7/8 in. plate.⁵¹³ The composition depicts a fieldhand trudging through a wide, endless landscape of young tobacco plants, perhaps at the end of a long day. The piece is almost entirely black, save for a diffused glow near the horizon which accentuates the roof of a distant house and the man in the foreground. The slumped position of the man's torso and his drooping arms convey an overwhelming exhaustion which, considering his occupation, may be as much an existential enervation as a physical one. The house in the background beckons as a welcoming refuge, though the viewer is inclined to wonder whether the fieldhand has enough energy to make it there, or if he is welcome.⁵¹⁴

Figure 66. Edmond Malnate (1916–2003), *Tobacco Rows*, 1941, carborundum mezzotint, 7 1/2 in. × 11 1/4 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 44. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵¹⁵



⁵¹³ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Tobacco Rows, (1941)." Collection. <https://philamuseum.org/collection/object/94559>.

⁵¹⁴ Edmond Malnate, *Tobacco Rows*, 1941, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Removed from online catalog.

⁵¹⁵ Edmond Malnate, *Tobacco Rows*, 1941, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Removed from online catalog.

3.23 Lester Mathews (1911–1990)

3.23.1 Biography

Lester Mathews was born in Pittsburgh on 8 August 1911, with little else known about his early life or interest in sculpture.⁵¹⁶ By 1935, Mathews resided in Oakland, California. He completed his third year of university level art studies in 1940 while working as a government project commercial artist.⁵¹⁷ During his time with the FAP, Mathews worked under popular California modernist George Harris.⁵¹⁸

Mathews' works were included in several California showings over the decade. In 1940, he presented alongside Harris in an Art Week exhibition in Oakland City Hall. Fellow sculptor Sargent Johnson was also featured.⁵¹⁹ The following year, his door relief carving, *Tree of Life*, was shown in a popular presentation of trends in American sculpture at the San Francisco Museum of Art.⁵²⁰ Mathews presented his only known solo exhibition at Chabot Gallery in Los Angeles in 1949. He showed a variety of mediums, including "paintings, sculpture, ceramics, lamps, and other 'art for the home.'" ⁵²¹ Apart from this versatility, nothing is known about the artist's preferred themes or style.

There are few records of Mathews' personal life. He married Orby Wilson in 1942 in Carson City, Nevada, before the couple returned to California.⁵²² Later, Mathews moved to Los Angeles, likely with his wife. He died there in March 1990.⁵²³

⁵¹⁶ *World War II Draft Cards*. "Lester Nathan Matthews." October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/18616280:2238>.

⁵¹⁷ *1940 Census*. "Lester Mathews." Oakland, California. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/74310260:2442>.

⁵¹⁸ *World War II Draft Cards*, "Lester Nathan Matthews."

⁵¹⁹ *Oakland Tribune*. 1940. "Art Exhibited in City Hall Rotunda." *Oakland Tribune*, Dec. 1, 1940. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/148750482>.

⁵²⁰ Dungan. 1941. "Sculpture Show in S.F. is Leading Art Attraction." *Oakland Tribune*, Nov. 2, 1941. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/147785869/>.

⁵²¹ *Los Angeles Times*. 1949. "Art Events." *The Los Angeles Times*, March 20, 1949. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/380814703>.

⁵²² *Carson City, Nevada, US Marriage Index, 1855–1985*. "Lester Nathan Matthews." April 13, 1942. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/78422:60954>, accessed October 9, 2022.

⁵²³ *US Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014*. "Lester N. Matthews." March 18, 1990. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/39756214:3693>, accessed October 8, 2022.

3.23.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Mathews' association with the FAP and fellow California-based sculptor Sargant Johnson perhaps led to his inclusion in the Fort Huachuca exhibition. There, Mathews presented a single sculpture entitled *Head*. Details about the piece are unknown (no attributable image).

3.24 Lonnie Moore (1905–1991)

3.24.1 Biography

Like several artists who submitted work for the 1943 Art Exhibit at Fort Huachuca, little is known about Lonnie Moore. There are few details about her life, and even fewer details concerning her artistic pursuits. As with Stuart Bruce and Edward Malnate, a general impression of Moore's upbringing and early ventures into art can be reconstructed from census data and other relevant records. She was born in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, as Lonnie Henderson on 21 January 1905.⁵²⁴ Little is known about her childhood, except that she did not receive a secondary education after sixth grade.⁵²⁵ By 1926, Henderson had moved to Ohio and married Maddix Moore, a native Mississippian who worked in Ohio as a coal miner.⁵²⁶ She may have moved to Ohio in search of work, joining thousands of other Black Americans in the Great Migration. Based on the birthplaces of their children listed in the 1940 census, Lonnie and Maddix Moore moved from Ohio to Tennessee in 1928, then relocated to Illinois in 1930. The family ultimately settled in Chicago, where Lonnie Moore secured a job with the Illinois Federal Art Project.⁵²⁷ There, she was part of the FAP's Easel Division.⁵²⁸ Like many other WPA artists in Chicago, Moore may have been active in the SSCAC, which would have allowed her to forge connections with the city's most prolific artists.

The details surrounding Moore's later years are more indefinite than her early years. A 1950 census reveals that she and her husband Maddix continued to reside in Chicago with seven of their children, who ranged in age from six to 20 years old. Based on the census data, Moore no longer had

⁵²⁴ Summit County, Ohio, *US Marriage Records, 1840–1980*. "Lonnie Henderson." June 1, 1926. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1221291:2145>, accessed Sept. 2, 2022.

⁵²⁵ 1940 Census. "Lonnie Moore." Chicago, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/142181453:2442>, accessed September 2, 2022.

⁵²⁶ Summit County, *Marriage Records*, "Lonnie Henderson."

⁵²⁷ 1940 Census, "Lonnie Moore."

⁵²⁸ Mavigliano and Lawson. 1990. *The Federal Art Project in Illinois, 1935–1943*, 128.

a formal occupation in art by 1950.⁵²⁹ Unfortunately, nothing is known about the remainder of her life. Moore died in Chicago on 20 March 1991.⁵³⁰

3.24.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Because many entrants in Fort Huachuca's 1943 art exhibit were WPA artists, it is probable that Moore learned about the exhibition through her association with the Illinois Art Project. Her contribution is significant, since she appears to be one of only two women who participated in the exhibition. According to the exhibit pamphlet, Moore had one piece selected for the show, a painting titled *After School* (no attributable image). Unfortunately, the characteristics of this painting are unknown, and due to Moore's low profile, it is not possible to conjecture how this piece may have compared with her typical artwork.

3.25 Archibald Motley, Jr. (1891–1981)

3.25.1 Biography

Archibald Motley, Jr., was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1891 to middle class parents. His mother was a teacher, and his father was a Pullman porter, a profession that has been credited in the formation of the Black middle class.⁵³¹ When Motley was a small child, the family moved to Englewood, a predominantly White neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago. Due to the family's economic status and light skin tone, Motley was afforded greater access to resources and opportunities than many of his Black artist peers.⁵³²

Motley studied at the SAIC, graduating in 1918. He was one of the first Black students accepted into the program and his early style was significantly influenced by the institute's curriculum. His training was "academic, rigorously focused on the human figure, and steeped in European tradition."⁵³³ Motley developed a great talent in portraiture,

⁵²⁹ 1950 Census. "Lennie Moore." Chicago, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/221107165:62308>, accessed December 6, 2022.

⁵³⁰ Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1871–1998. "Lonnie Moore." <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1221291:2145>, accessed January 3, 2023.

⁵³¹ Alvarez, V., M. Brenner, and H. Gillette. 2014. "Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist." Los Angeles County Museum of Art. https://www.lacma.org/sites/default/files/module-uploads/E4E_MotleyConsolidated.pdf.

⁵³² Alvarez et al. 2014. "Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist."

⁵³³ Alvarez et al. 2014. "Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist."

inspired by Renaissance artists like Rembrandt. He received top grades in his portrait classes and earned a Class Honorable Mention for “general excellence” in oil portraiture, an award given to only nine students in his class of several hundred.⁵³⁴

Following his academic career, Motley hoped to engage in a career in European-style fine art, namely as a professional portraitist. This goal was hindered by a lack of clientele, as White customers had a predilection for White artists, while most Black Chicagoans lacked either the means or interest in portraiture.⁵³⁵ In need of employment, Motley joined his father as a Pullman porter from 1918 to 1925, but continued painting on the side, using family and Englewood community members as his subjects.⁵³⁶ He used his formal training to depict Black subjects in a classically European style.⁵³⁷

Considered a part of the Harlem Renaissance movement, Motley believed art should be used as a mode for Black social and cultural advancement. However, he did not wish to shun his academic conventions in favor of specifically Black aesthetics. The year of his graduation, Motley submitted an essay to the Black-owned *Chicago Defender* entitled “The Negro in Art.” In this piece, he wrote of his desire for Black artists to be afforded the same stylistic versatility and individualism as White artists, rather than being restricted solely to Black subjects and traditional African-rooted styles.⁵³⁸ Despite this sentiment, Motley almost exclusively painted Black subjects in his work, however he did achieve great versatility in terms of style.⁵³⁹

In 1929, Motley was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, which allowed him to study art in Paris for a year. There, he studied classical art in the Louvre, but also developed a fascination with bustling life of the city. Jazz Era aesthetics and other Black influences featured prominently in Parisian culture. Based on this experience, as well as observations of the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago’s South Side, Motley adopted a new style: Modernist genre art. This new style would become a hallmark of Motley’s work. He primarily painted urban night scenes “inspired by the rhythm and

⁵³⁴ Greenhouse, W. 1998. “An Early Portrait by Archibald J. Motley, Jr.” *American Art Journal* 29 (1/2): 97. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1594621>.

⁵³⁵ Greenhouse. 1998. “An Early Portrait by Archibald J. Motley, Jr,” 99.

⁵³⁶ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 132.

⁵³⁷ Greenhouse. 1998. “An Early Portrait by Archibald J. Motley, Jr,” 97.

⁵³⁸ Greenhouse. 1998. “An Early Portrait by Archibald J. Motley, Jr,” 98.

⁵³⁹ Whitney Museum of American Art. n.d. “Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist, Artworks.” Exhibitions. <https://whitney.org/exhibitions/archibald-motley>.

colors of jazz.⁵⁴⁰ Motley continued using this style for the duration of his career, including his employment in the Illinois FAP mural division, which spanned from 1935 to 1939.⁵⁴¹

With few exceptions, Motley's notable career began to fade around the close of WWII, though his works would continue to be featured in a variety of retrospective Black artist exhibitions. Shortly before his death, Motley received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater. He was also included in a White House honors ceremony for Black artists during President Carter's administration.⁵⁴² He died in his home city in 1981.⁵⁴³

3.25.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Motley's three paintings included at the Fort Huachuca exhibition included *The Plotters* (1933), *Carnival* (1937), and *Arrival of the Slaves* (c. 1938). Each feature his distinctive Modernist genre style, complete with diffused lighting and borderline chaotic narratives.⁵⁴⁴ Each piece was produced during his time with the Illinois FAP. The scenes, though depicting different temporal and cultural contexts, are all heavily populated with a variety of characters intended to represent the vibrancy and diversity of life within Black communities (Figure 68–Figure 67).

⁵⁴⁰ Greenhouse. 1998. "An Early Portrait by Archibald J. Motley, Jr," 99.

⁵⁴¹ Whitney Museum of American Art. n.d. "Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist."

⁵⁴² Reich, H. 2015. "Some Key Moments in Archibald Motley's Life and Art." *Chicago Tribune*, March 20, 2015. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/ct-motley-music-timeline-20150320-story.html>.

⁵⁴³ Cook County, *Illinois Death Index*. "Archibald John Motley." January 16, 1981. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3174164:1501>, accessed December 27, 2022.

⁵⁴⁴ Greenhouse. 1998. "An Early Portrait by Archibald J. Motley, Jr," 99.

Figure 67. Archibald Motley, Jr. (1891–1981), *Arrival of the Slaves*, c. 1938, oil on board, Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 15. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)

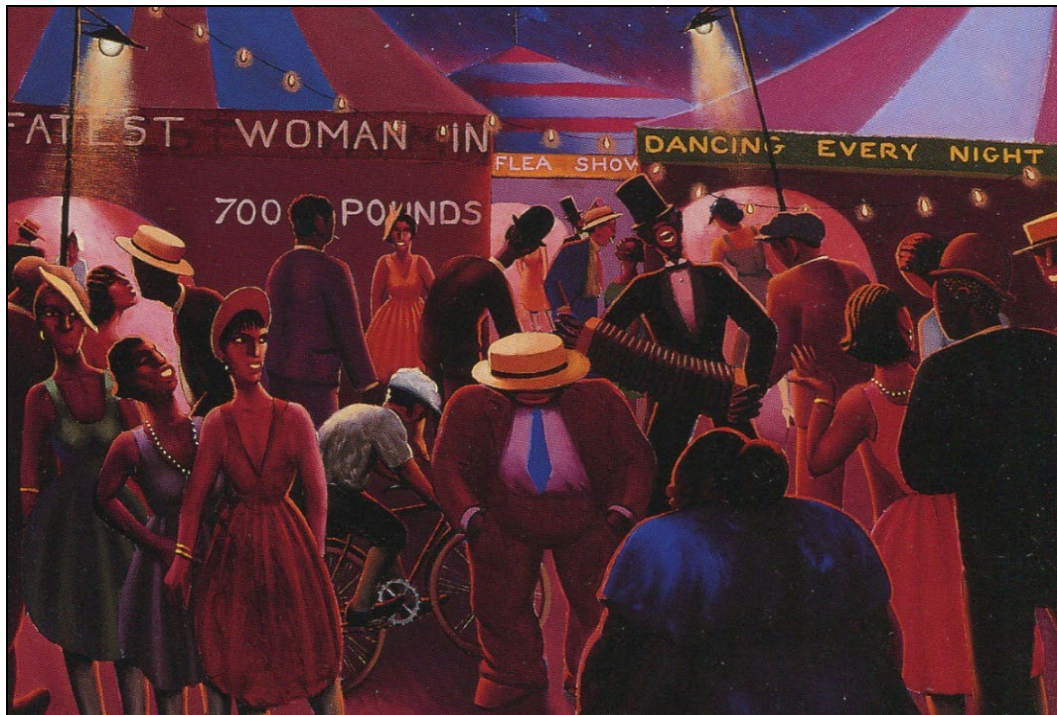


Figure 68. Archibald Motley, Jr. (1891–1981), *The Plotters*, 1933, oil on canvas, 36 1/8 in. × 40 1/4 in., Private collection, exhibit number 21. (Used with permission from Private Collection. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁴⁵



⁵⁴⁵ Archibald Motley, “The Plotters,” 1933, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.bridgemanimages.com/en/motley-jr/the-plotters-1933-oil-on-canvas/oil-on-canvas/asset/2638308>.

Figure 69. Archibald Motley, Jr. (1891–1981), *Carnival*, 1937, oil on canvas, 30 in. × 40 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 14. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



3.26 Frank Neal (1914–1955)

3.26.1 Biography

Frank Neal was born in Palestine, Texas, on 12 July 1914.⁵⁴⁶ Nothing is known about Neal's upbringing or early interest in the arts. At some point in his early adulthood, Neal relocated to Chicago, where he attended the SAIC.⁵⁴⁷

Like many other participants in the Fort Huachuca exhibition, Neal was active in the SSCAC, both as an artist and event planner. He was responsible for planning the center's Artists and Models Ball fundraiser for several years.⁵⁴⁸ The benefit was a glamorous affair, especially considering the concurrent Great Depression, and successfully highlighted Black creation

⁵⁴⁶ World War II Draft Cards. "Frank Woodard Neal." October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/40421048:2238>, accessed October 5, 2022.

⁵⁴⁷ Swann Auction Galleries. 2015. "Frank Neal (1915–1955), *Three Women by the Sea*." Auction. April 2, 2015. [https://catalogue.swanngalleries.com/Lots/auction-lot/FRANK-NEAL-\(1915---1955\)-Three-Women-by-the-Sea?saleno=2378&lotNo=37&refNo=700045](https://catalogue.swanngalleries.com/Lots/auction-lot/FRANK-NEAL-(1915---1955)-Three-Women-by-the-Sea?saleno=2378&lotNo=37&refNo=700045).

⁵⁴⁸ Swann Auction Galleries. 2015. "Frank Neal (1915-1955), *Three Women by the Sea*."

and achievement in the visual and performing arts.⁵⁴⁹ Neal was an astute choice for this position, as he was also engaged in the city's acting and dancing communities. In addition to this role, Neal was employed by the WPA, working at the National Defense Machine Drafting School.⁵⁵⁰

In the early 1940s, Neal continued painting in association with the SSCAC, though his employment status is unclear. The 1940 Census does not indicate that either Neal or his wife, Dorcas, were officially employed.⁵⁵¹

For the remainder of his career, Neal exhibited extreme creative versatility. In 1943, Neal moved to New York City with his wife and infant daughter. Though he continued painting in his new home, his focus shifted primarily to dance. Neal performed in three Broadway shows in the 1940s, acting as dance captain in his final production, *Finian's Rainbow*.⁵⁵² After this period, Neal relocated once again, opening a custom display and serving tray business in Mexico for a short time. There, he developed a spray glaze for the trays that protected them from breakage and discoloration, an accomplishment that earned him the title of "chemist" in one wide-spread news article. The article also praised his painting, reporting that such figures as Frank Sinatra, Leonard Bernstein, and Vincent Minnelli all owned "Frank Neals."⁵⁵³

In this artistic prime, Neal's works were reportedly displayed at the Chicago Art Institute, the Brooklyn Art Museum, and the Carnegie Art Museum.⁵⁵⁴ Unfortunately, evidence of this popularity did not extend beyond the 1953 article and few of his works remain on public display. Neal was killed in a car accident in May 1955.⁵⁵⁵

⁵⁴⁹ African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. n.d. "South Side Community Art Center." <https://savingplaces.org/places/sscac>, accessed May 8, 2023.

⁵⁵⁰ *World War II Draft Cards*, "Frank Woodard Neal."

⁵⁵¹ 1940 Census. "Frank Neal." Chicago, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/143774347:2442>, accessed October 5, 2022.

⁵⁵² Internet Broadway Database. n.d. "Frank Neal." Broadway Cast. <https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/frank-neal-94816>.

⁵⁵³ Bolton, Whitney. 1953. "Looking Sideways." *Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, April 24, 1953. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/14722368>.

⁵⁵⁴ Bolton. 1953. "Looking Sideways."

⁵⁵⁵ New York Times. 1955. "Frank Neal Rites Today; Service to Be Held for Artist and Dancer Killed in Crash." *New York Times*, May 11, 1955. <https://www.nytimes.com/1955/05/11/archives/frank-neal-rites-today-service-to-be-held-for-artist-and-dancer.html>.

3.26.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

In the early 1940s, Neal painted *Girl in a Yellow Hat*, his piece displayed at the Fort Huachuca exhibition (Figure 70). The oil wash portrait features delicate earthy tones and soft, almost indistinct lines, apart from the girl's large dark eyes. The trend of experimenting with the size and depth of human features is common in Neal's few surviving works.⁵⁵⁶

Figure 70. Frank Neal (1914–1955), *Girl in Yellow Hat*, 1943, oil wash, 12 1/2 in. × 9 1/8 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 28. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



⁵⁵⁶ Invaluable. n.d. "Frank Neal Sold at Auction." Artist. <https://www.invaluable.com/artist/neal-frank-3yz1j0hpw6/>.

3.27 Bryant Pringle (1917–unknown)

3.27.1 Biography

The life of Bryant Pringle, like several artists who participated in Fort Huachuca's 1943 exhibit, is largely shrouded in mystery. He was born on 3 August 1917, in Camden, New Jersey.⁵⁵⁷ His mother, Urcelia (née O'Connor) Pringle was a native of Jamaica who immigrated to the United States in 1914, and his father, Jonathan Pringle, was a native of Philadelphia.⁵⁵⁸ Bryant's early childhood was spent in Camden, where his father worked in a laboratory setting and his mother raised him at home.⁵⁵⁹ By the time Bryant's first sibling was born in 1923, the family had relocated to Philadelphia.⁵⁶⁰ According to census data, Pringle attended school through the eighth grade.⁵⁶¹ Without any record of higher education, it is likely that Bryant was a self-taught artist.

By 1940, Pringle was employed by the Philadelphia WPA art program, likely in the printmaking division based on the nature of his surviving pieces.⁵⁶² At the same time, Pringle was working as an artist for the Philadelphia School Board, though the capacity of his work is unknown.⁵⁶³

In 1940, Bryant married Theresa C. Joseph in Philadelphia, though their marriage was short lived.⁵⁶⁴ Bryant applied to marry Winona Tripp in September 1946, with whom he already had an infant child.⁵⁶⁵ Bryant met and married Winona in Honolulu, where he traveled several times during WWII and beyond. These travels are recorded in Department of Justice records of immigration and naturalization, which show Pringle as a

⁵⁵⁷ *World War II Draft Cards*. "Bryant Ethelberth Pringle." October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/7844657:2238>, accessed Sept. 15, 2022.

⁵⁵⁸ *Pennsylvania, US Federal Naturalization Records, 1795–1931*. "Urcelia Pringle." May 18, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/870589:2717>, accessed Sept. 15, 2022.

⁵⁵⁹ *US City Directories, 1822–1995*. "Greater Camden Directory, 1921." <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1266724986:2469>, accessed Sep. 15, 2022.

⁵⁶⁰ *Pennsylvania, US Federal Naturalization Records, 1795–1931*. "Urcelia Pringle."

⁵⁶¹ *1940 Census*. "Bryant Pringle." Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/23355516:2442>, accessed Sept. 15, 2022.

⁵⁶² *World War II Draft Cards*, "Bryant Ethelberth Pringle."

⁵⁶³ *1940 Census*, "Bryant Pringle."

⁵⁶⁴ *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US Marriage Index, 1885–1951*. "Bryant Pringle." 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/232143:2536>, accessed September 15, 2022.

⁵⁶⁵ *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. 1946. "Marriage Applications." *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. Sept. 26, 1946. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/282733982>.

passenger on military vessels, such as the submarine USS *Sea Flasher* in July 1944 and the United States Army Transport *General Patrick* in 1950, indicating service or auxiliary involvement.⁵⁶⁶ In 1950, Bryant reported his occupation as an Auto Mechanic, perhaps a role he performed throughout the war and during his stints in Hawaii.⁵⁶⁷

Bryant and Winona had two children in Hawaii before returning to Philadelphia.⁵⁶⁸ Pringle was recorded as still living in Philadelphia in 1999, though details regarding his later life and death are unknown.⁵⁶⁹ Three of his lithograph pieces, *Arc Welder*, *Port of Philadelphia*, and *Friday* are currently held at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.⁵⁷⁰

3.27.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Pringle presented one lithograph at the Fort Huachuca exhibition. *Arc Welder*, a gritty depiction of an industrial laborer, may have been inspired by the artist's interest in mechanics (Figure 71).

⁵⁶⁶ *Honolulu, Hawaii, US Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1900–1959*. “Bryant E Pringle.” September 19, 1944. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/643274:1502>, accessed September 15, 2022; *California, US Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882–1959*. “Bryant Ethelberth Pringle.” February 11, 1950. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1126133:7949>, accessed September 15, 2022.

⁵⁶⁷ *1950 Census*. “Bryant Frengle.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/240838779:62308>, accessed Sept. 15, 2022.

⁵⁶⁸ *1950 Census*, “Bryant Frengle.”

⁵⁶⁹ *United States Public Records, 1970–2009*. “Bryant Pringle.” <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2QYR-D41>, accessed January 3, 2023.

⁵⁷⁰ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. “Bryant Pringle Artworks.” Collection. <https://philamuseum.org/search?q=bryant%20pringle>.

Figure 71. Bryant Pringle (1917–unknown), *Arc Welder*, c. 1940, lithograph, exhibit number 64. (Used with permission from National Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁷¹



⁵⁷¹ Bryant Pringle, *Arc Welder*, c. 1940, National Gallery of Art, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.151089.html>.

3.28 Charles L. Sallée, Jr. (1911–2006)

3.28.1 Biography

Charles Sallée, Jr., was born in Oberlin, Ohio, on 4 May 1911.⁵⁷² The family relocated to Sandusky, Ohio, several years later, where his father opened a construction contracting business. The eldest of fourteen children, Sallée helped support his family by aiding his father's company before pursuing an art education.⁵⁷³

As a young adult, Sallée moved to Cleveland, where he joined the Karamu House (then named the Playhouse Settlement). The House was a hub for Black arts and culture, attracting performance and visual artists of all kinds. Sallée was one of the first art students to enroll under the tutelage of master printmaker Richard R. Beatty. He showed immediate promise, and soon became Karamu's first Gilpin Award winner. The scholarship award allowed Sallée to study at the John Huntington Polytechnic Institute (1932–1933) and, later, the Cleveland Institute of Art (1933–1938).⁵⁷⁴ Sallée became the first Black artist to graduate from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and in 1939, he received a second degree in education from Western Reserve University.⁵⁷⁵

Sallée remained active in the Karamu house through 1941, creating many of his works with the sponsorship of the WPA. He produced several prints and oil paintings, as well as murals for local schools, hospitals, and housing projects.⁵⁷⁶ His works were included in several exhibitions around the country, including those at the Library of Congress in 1940 and the Associated American Art Galleries of New York in 1941. He presented his first solo exhibition in North Canton Library, Ohio, in 1940.⁵⁷⁷

Over the course of his career, Sallée exhibited enormous creative range. In 1943, Sallée put his artistic talent to new uses when he was drafted into the Army Corps of Engineers to serve as a cartographer and camouflage

⁵⁷² World War II Draft Cards. "Charles Louis Sallée." October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/200741045:2238>, accessed October 13, 2022.

⁵⁷³ Cleveland Museum of Art. n.d. "Bedtime, 1940." Collection. <https://www.clevelandart.org/art/2006.202>.

⁵⁷⁴ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 175.

⁵⁷⁵ Porter, *Modern Negro Art*, 129.

⁵⁷⁶ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 175.

⁵⁷⁷ Cleveland Museum of Art. n.d. "Bedtime, 1940."

designer.⁵⁷⁸ During his assignment, he was deployed to Europe and the Philippines.⁵⁷⁹ He returned safely to Cleveland in 1945 and took a position as an art teacher. By 1950, he had abandoned teaching and painted full-time from a home studio.⁵⁸⁰ Sallée later opened his own interior design firm. His first major commission was the Tijuana night club (since demolished). There, he constructed a revolving stage decorated with Pacific Island-inspired murals where several famous musicians, including Billie Holiday, would perform.⁵⁸¹ He was later commissioned by Cleveland Trust, the Stouffer Hotel, and the Cleveland Browns.⁵⁸²

Sallée died in a Cleveland nursing home in 2006 after a long and successful career. His works were included in several major retrospective exhibitions, including *Yet Still We Rise: African American Art in Cleveland, 1920-1970*; *Hardship to Hope: African American Art from the Karamu Workshop*; and a collection displayed at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, in Beachwood, Ohio.⁵⁸³

3.28.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

The four pieces Sallée presented at Fort Huachuca reflected his typical print style: black and white, highly textured depictions of Black living in the urban North. He worked to capture a range of experience across his works, creating images of labor, as in *Used Cars* and *The Post Setters*, night life, as in *Swingtime*, and the private domestic sphere (Figure 72–Figure 74). *Bertha* is representative of Sallée’s empathetic character study portraits (Figure 75).⁵⁸⁴

⁵⁷⁸ Cleveland Museum of Art. n.d. “Bedtime, 1940.”

⁵⁷⁹ Tyler Courier-Times. 2001. “Artist Painted Strokes of Cleveland’s History.” *The Tyler Courier-Times*. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/590734922/>.

⁵⁸⁰ 1950 Census. “Charles Sallie.” Cleveland, Ohio. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/202024531:62308>, accessed Oct. 14, 2022.

⁵⁸¹ Tyler Courier-Times. 2001. “Artist Painted Strokes of Cleveland’s History.”

⁵⁸² “Bedtime, 1940.”

⁵⁸³ “Bedtime, 1940.”

⁵⁸⁴ “Bedtime, 1940.”

Figure 72. Charles Sallée, Jr. (1911–2006), *Used Cars*, c. 1935, soft ground etching, 7 in. × 9 ½ in., Case Western Reserve University, exhibit number 49. (Used with permission from Case Western Reserve University. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁸⁵



⁵⁸⁵ Charles Sallée, "Used Cars," c. 1935, [GSA Fine Arts catalog](#), accessed Dec. 9, 2022.

Figure 73. Charles Sallée, Jr. (1911–2006), *The Post Setters*, c. 1935, soft ground etching, 5 ½ in. × 6 ¾ in., Case Western Reserve University, exhibit number 66. (Used with permission from Case Western Reserve University. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁸⁶



⁵⁸⁶ Sallée, "The Post Setters," c. 1935, [GSA Fine Arts catalog](#), accessed Dec. 9, 2022.

Figure 74. Charles Sallée, Jr. (1911–2006), *Swingtime*, c. 1935, aquatint and etching, 5 ½ in. × 6 ¾ in., Case Western Reserve University, exhibit number 67. (Used with permission from Case Western Reserve University. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁸⁷



⁵⁸⁷ Sallée, “Swingtime,” c. 1935, [GSA Fine Arts catalog](#), accessed Dec. 9, 2022.

Figure 75. Charles Sallée, Jr. (1911–2006), *Bertha*, c. 1935, aquatint and etching, 7 in. × 9 1/2 in., Case Western Reserve University, exhibit number 65. (Used with permission from Case Western Reserve University. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁸⁸



⁵⁸⁸ Charles Sallée, “Bertha,” c. 1935, [GSA Fine Arts catalog](#), accessed Dec. 9, 2022.

3.29 Bernard Schardt (1904–1979)

3.29.1 Biography

Bernard Schardt was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1904. Schardt began his higher education at the University of Wisconsin, but his interest in the arts brought him to the SAIC, where he earned his degree in 1924. Shortly after, he relocated to New York City, where he studied with the Art Students League until 1928. From this point on, Schardt was deeply engaged in the New York art scene. Schardt was employed by the New York City WPA starting in 1935.⁵⁸⁹ He showed remarkable artistic and organizational talent and was soon named to positions of authority within the local FAP. Appointed as the administrator of the allocations division, Schardt oversaw the creation of WPA art exhibitions, including a showing at the 1939–1940 New York World's Fair. He later worked as the head of the Poster Division. Beyond his administrative responsibilities, Schardt produced many artistic works during his time with the WPA. Most of his pieces were done in his signature woodcutting style, though he was also a practiced lithographer.⁵⁹⁰

During Schardt's time with the WPA, he married fellow artist and WPA employee Nene Vibber. The couple shared a loft workspace with Jackson Pollock for many years, who remained a close friend throughout Schardt's career.⁵⁹¹

In the late 1930s, Schardt started working for the National Youth Administration Art Production Unit.⁵⁹² He acted as an instructor through the early war years as the unit produced military recruitment posters.⁵⁹³ Schardt remained committed to youth development in the arts for the rest of his life, giving lessons at the Brooklyn Museum into his retirement. Bernard Schardt died in North Truro, Massachusetts, in 1979, leaving his

⁵⁸⁹ British Museum. n.d. "Bernard Schardt," Collection. <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/BIOG167431>.

⁵⁹⁰ British Museum. n.d. "Bernard Schardt."

⁵⁹¹ British Museum. n.d. "Bernard Schardt."

⁵⁹² The National Youth Administration was a New Deal organization created under the 1935 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act. It was established to engage young people (ages 16–25) in a range of work and service projects like those of the WPA. "National Youth Administration (NYA) (1935)," The Living New Deal, November 18, 2016, <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/national-youth-administration-nya-1935/>.

⁵⁹³ Genesee Valley Council on the Arts. 2021. "Schardt, Bernard P. (1904–1979)." New Deal Collection. <https://gvartscouncil.org/ndc/schardt>.

artistic legacy in collections at the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Brooklyn Museum.⁵⁹⁴

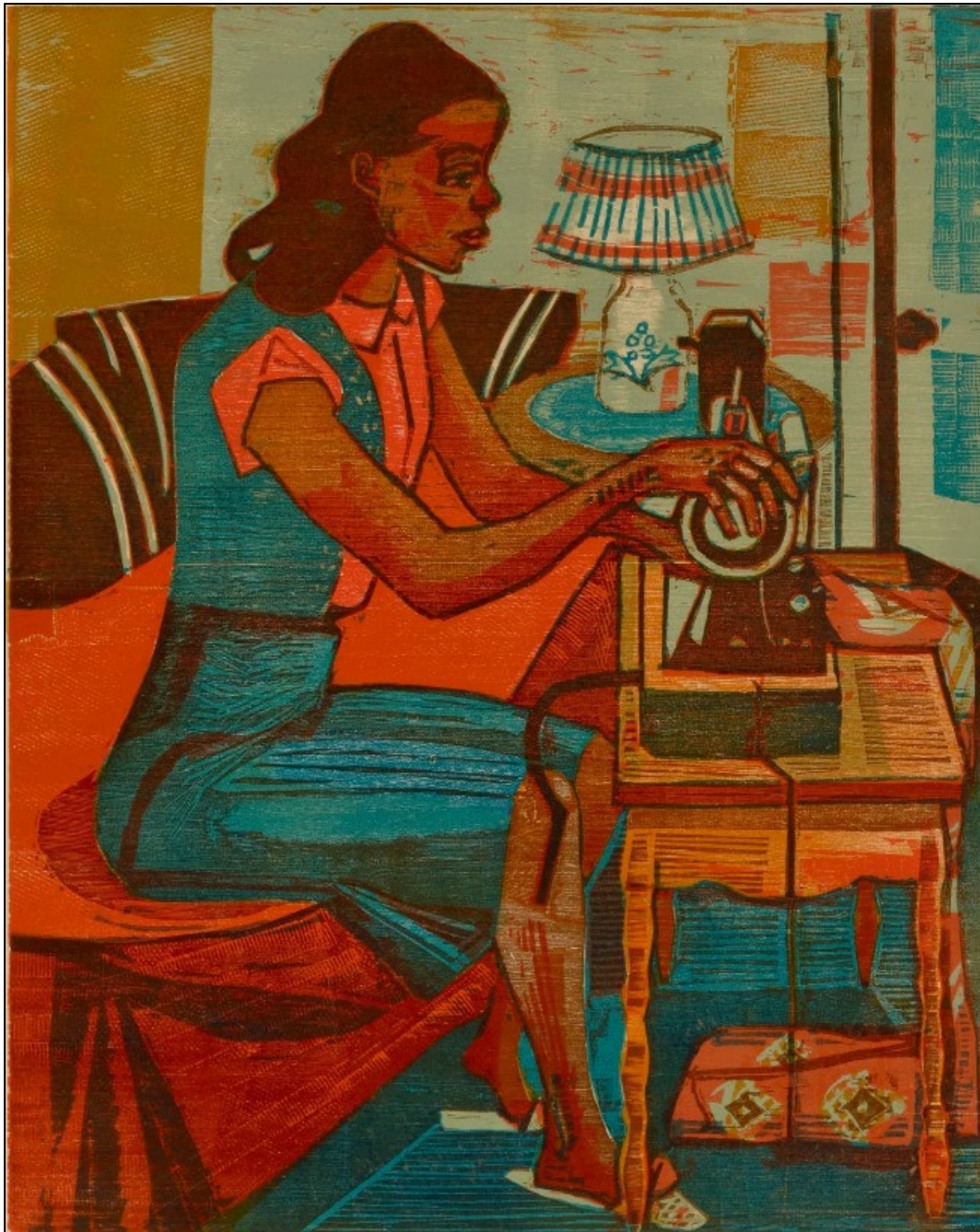
3.29.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Schardt was one of seven artists at the exhibit who identified as White. *Girl Sewing* was produced in Schardt's typical woodcut medium, though the tone of the piece diverged from that of many of his other works. Scenes of labor were common in his repertoire, along with portraits of the Depression's downtrodden. Many of the artist's woodcuts were colorless, which effectively captured the glumness of his subjects. However, Schardt created a few warmly colored woodcut portraits of Black women carrying out domestic work.⁵⁹⁵ *Girl Sewing* is among his depictions of Black womanhood (Figure 76).

⁵⁹⁴ "Schardt, Bernard P. (1904–1979)."

⁵⁹⁵ Mutual Art n.d. "Bernard P. Schardt, Artworks." Artists.
<https://www.mutualart.com/Artist/Bernard-P--Schardt/495EB9575878E803/Artworks>.

Figure 76. Bernard Schardt (1904–1979), *Girl Sewing*, c. 1934–1943, color woodcut on paper, 13 7/8 in. × 11 1/8 in., Smithsonian American Art Museum, exhibit number 53. (Used with permission from Smithsonian American Art Museum. Applicable rights reserved.)⁵⁹⁶



⁵⁹⁶ Bernard Schardt, “Girl Sewing,” c. 1934–1943, Smithsonian American Art Museum, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/girl-sewing-21795>.

3.30 Charles Sebree (1914–1985)

3.30.1 Biography

Charles Sebree was born on 23 March 1914, in White City, Kentucky.⁵⁹⁷ Sebree engaged with visual arts from a very early age, learning basic sculpture and drawing techniques from his uncle. A natural artist, his talent was recognized by his elementary teachers, who tasked him with creating drawings and other decorations for the school.⁵⁹⁸ Sebree and his mother relocated to the South Side of Chicago in 1924. There, Sebree continued to exhibit remarkable skill. When he was 14 years old, Sebree's teacher presented a piece of his art to the Chicago Renaissance Society. The society purchased the piece, entitled *Seated Boy*, and published a reproduction on the front page of their magazine.⁵⁹⁹

Catching wind of the child's early success, the SAIC offered Sebree a scholarship to attend weekend classes shortly after the publication circulated. He would later enroll as a full-time student at the Institute, where he spent three years. During his young adult life, Sebree worked closely with the Bronzeville art community as a member of the Chicago Arts and Crafts Guild, as well as the WPA-sponsored SSCAC. There, he befriended several Black artists also featured in the Fort Huachuca exhibition, including Eldzier Cortor, Archibald Motley, Jr., and Charles White (Section 3.7, Section 3.25, and Section 3.36). Sebree worked in the Chicago FAP's Easel Division until he was drafted in 1942. Never deployed, Sebree remained stationed at Camp Robert Smalls, a segregated Navy training facility in northern Illinois, for the duration of his service.⁶⁰⁰

After the war, Sebree moved to New York City. There, he fostered another creative passion—theater. At the SAIC, Sebree met the well-known Black dancer, anthropologist, and activist Katherine Dunham, who helped him foster an interest in theatrical and performing arts. While in Chicago, Sebree acted as a dancer and set designer for Dunham's dance company. His theater engagement grew in New York City, where he wrote and directed productions for the American Negro Theatre. Sebree's musical production, *Mrs. Patterson*,

⁵⁹⁷ African American Registry (AAREG). n.d. "Charles Sebree, Artist, and Playwright Born." Today's Stories. <https://aaregistry.org/story/charles-sebree-artist-and-playwright-born/>.

⁵⁹⁸ Shine, T. 1985. "Charles Sebree, Modernist." *Black American Literature Forum* 19 (1): 6. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2904461>.

⁵⁹⁹ Shine. 1985. "Charles Sebree, Modernist," 7.

⁶⁰⁰ AAREG. n.d. "Charles Sebree, Artist, and Playwright Born."

premiered on Broadway in 1954.⁶⁰¹ This interest in performance influenced Sebree's visual arts as well, as his subjects were often actors, harlequins, and traveling street performers.⁶⁰²

Sebree developed many prominent connections in the New York Black creative scene. Beyond the theater, Sebree developed a close friendship with Billie Holiday and Alain Locke. Locke called Sebree "one of the most talented of the younger contemporary modernists."⁶⁰³ Locke also introduced Sebree to Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen, for whom Sebree worked as an illustrator for a time.⁶⁰⁴

In his later career, Sebree experimented with texture, bolder colors, and increasing abstraction of the human form. His works also became smaller, as he did most of his work in his home at the kitchen table.⁶⁰⁵ Sebree moved to Washington, DC, in the late 1950s, where he would spend the rest of his life. He remained involved in the creative scene at Howard University until his death in 1985.⁶⁰⁶

3.30.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Sebree was likely invited to present at the Fort Huachuca exhibition due to his connections with the military and the WPA. Art historian James Porter described Sebree's work as having a "definite inclination toward the mystical and ineffable of human life."⁶⁰⁷ He produced portraits almost exclusively, using an artistic style that is considered strongly modernist. His portraiture features the abstract whimsy many associate with the works of Pablo Picasso, particularly those produced in his later career. In his Chicago years, Sebree showed great interest in Byzantine icons, and his use of color and bodily proportion presented iconographic style with a modern twist.⁶⁰⁸ It is likely that *Portrait of a Man*, shown in the Fort Huachuca exhibition, reflected these characteristics (no attributable image). The title of Sebree's

⁶⁰¹ Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. n.d. "Charles Sebree (1914–1985)." Artists. <https://www.michaelrosenfeldart.com/artists/charles-sebree-1914-1985/selected-works/2>.

⁶⁰² AAREG. n.d. "Charles Sebree, Artist, and Playwright Born."

⁶⁰³ Locke. 1940. *The Negro in Art*, 135.

⁶⁰⁴ Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. n.d. "Charles Sebree (1914–1985)."

⁶⁰⁵ Shine. 1985. "Charles Sebree, Modernist," 8.

⁶⁰⁶ Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. n.d. "Charles Sebree (1914–1985)."

⁶⁰⁷ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 132.

⁶⁰⁸ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 132.

other piece in the exhibition, *Sunflowers*, may indicate a divergence from his typical human subject (no attributable image).

3.31 Raymond Steth (1917–1997)

3.31.1 Biography

Raymond Steth was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on 25 June 1917. Steth grew up in a Pentecostal farming family, an experience which greatly influenced his future artistic vision. The family relocated to Philadelphia when Steth was still a child, and Raymond attended school in the city.⁶⁰⁹ After completing tenth grade, Steth left school to work as a local sign painter and vaudeville performer.⁶¹⁰

A few years later, Steth found employment with the WPA Graphics Division in Philadelphia. He worked closely with several other prominent Black artists, including Samuel Brown, Claude Clark, and Dox Thrash, and aided Thrash in the development of the carborundum mezzotint printing process.⁶¹¹ Steth used this process, as well as traditional lithography, to create numerous black and white prints during his employment with the WPA. In 1941, Steth received his first academic art training at the Philadelphia College of Art. He attended classes there until 1943, also studying at Philadelphia's Barnes Foundation from 1942 to 1944.⁶¹²

Steth's art career was interrupted when he enlisted into the Navy in 1944. He engaged in active domestic service for 19 months before being honorably discharged in January 1946.⁶¹³ Immediately after his release, Steth returned to his wife and two young sons in Philadelphia and resumed his creative efforts.⁶¹⁴

⁶⁰⁹ 1940 Census. "Raymond Steth." Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/19908048:2442>, accessed October 18, 2022.

⁶¹⁰ AAREG. n.d. "Raymond Steth, Graphic Artist Born."

⁶¹¹ AAREG. n.d. "Raymond Steth, Graphic Artist Born."

⁶¹² Tomlinson, G. C., and R. Corpus. 1995. "A Selection of Works by African American Artists in the Philadelphia Museum of Art," *Philadelphia Museum of Art Bulletin* 90 (382/383): 14. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3795505>.

⁶¹³ Pennsylvania, US Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950–1966. "Raymond Edgar Steth." April 10, 1950. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1566642:3147>, accessed October 15, 2022.

⁶¹⁴ 1940 Census. "Raymond Steth."

After the war, Steth reengaged in the Philadelphia art scene in a variety of roles. In 1948, Steth founded the Philographic School of Art in Philadelphia. He acted as director for five years, honing fine and commercial art programs while continuing his own studies at the Fleisher Art Memorial. At the same time, Steth taught printmaking courses at the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art. He retired from his teaching and administrative positions in 1954, becoming a full-time artist in residence at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.⁶¹⁵ He remained there until his death in February 1997.⁶¹⁶ His pieces are housed in many Philadelphia art institutions, as well as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art.⁶¹⁷

3.31.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Steth produced most of his works during his time with the Philadelphia graphics division, including all eight prints presented at the Fort Huachuca exhibition: *Sidewalk Quintet* (1935), *Debris* (c. 1935), *Despair* (c. 1935), *Patton St. Derelict* (c. 1935), *Evolution of Swing* (1939), *Reggie* (1939), *Apostolic* (c. 1940), and *Recreation* (date unknown) (Figure 77–Figure 83); no attributable image for *Recreation*). Like many artists of the time, Steth partook in the American Scene movement, producing art inspired by the sociopolitical environment of the Great Depression.⁶¹⁸ He often adapted Mexican muralist styles to create “a flowing, allover composition that conveys an intelligible narrative.”⁶¹⁹ Many of Steth’s pieces documented his contemporary environment, showing the suffering of Black urban and agrarian laborers and community reliance on faith structures, as in *Despair* and *Apostolic* (Figure 79 and Figure 82). Other works used a sweeping geographical and temporal frame to explore the ubiquitous influence of Black history and experience on American culture, the most notable being *Evolution of Swing* (Figure 81).⁶²⁰

⁶¹⁵ Tomlinson and Corpus. 1995. “A Selection of Works by African American Artists in the Philadelphia Museum of Art,” 14.

⁶¹⁶ US Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007. “Raymond Steth.” February 6, 1997. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/59914580:3693>, accessed October 15, 2022.

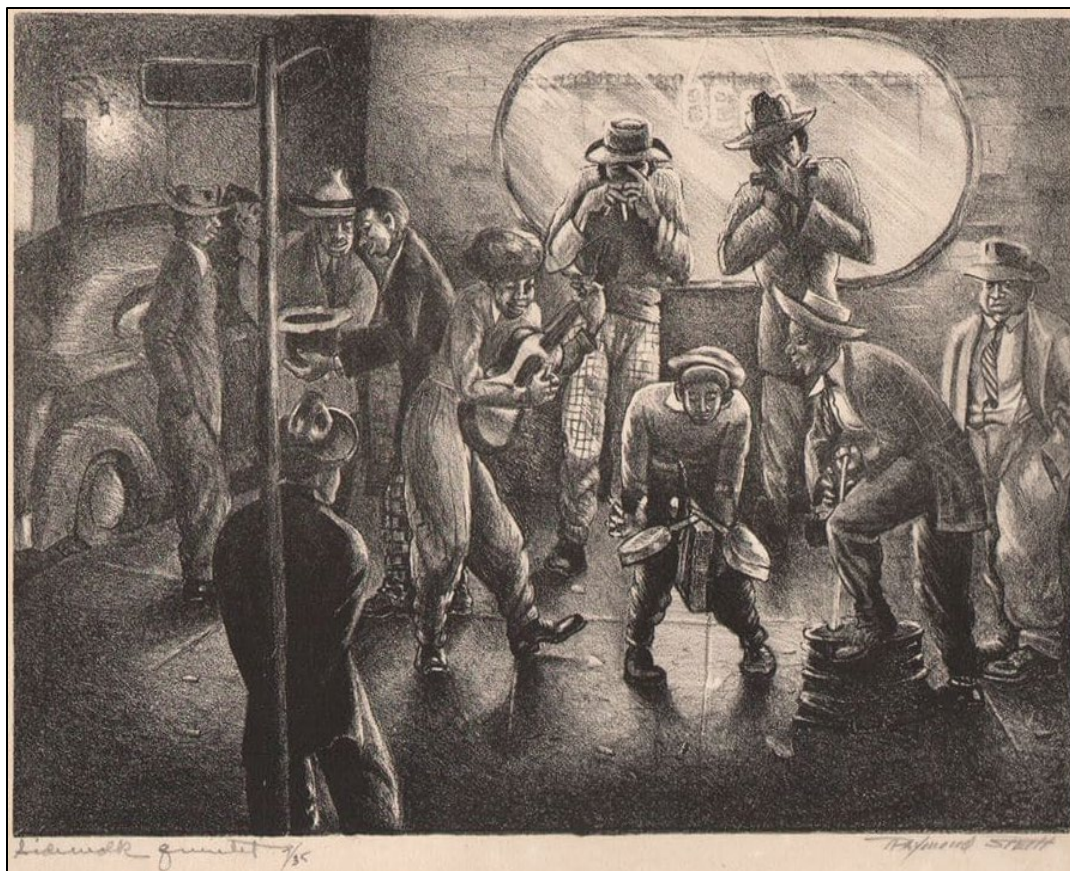
⁶¹⁷ See Figure 72–Figure 78.

⁶¹⁸ AAREG. n.d. “Raymond Steth, Graphic Artist Born.”

⁶¹⁹ Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET). n.d. “Raymond Steth, ‘Evolution of Swing (1939).’” Collection. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/372052>.

⁶²⁰ MET. n.d. “Evolution of Swing (1939).”

Figure 77. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Sidewalk Quintet*, c. 1935, lithograph, 7 5/8 in. × 10 3/4 in., Newark Museum, exhibit number 69. (Used with permission from Metropolitan Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶²¹



⁶²¹ Raymond Steth, "Sidewalk Quintet," c. 1935, Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search?q=Raymond+Steth>.

Figure 78. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Debris*, c. 1935, etching, 6 1/2 in. × 9 3/4 in., exhibit number 70. (Used with permission from Artnet. Applicable rights reserved).⁶²²



Figure 79. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Despair*, c. 1935, lithograph, 5 1/2 in. × 9 1/2 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 71. (Used with permission from Metropolitan Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved).⁶²³



⁶²² Raymond Steth, "Debris," c. 1935, Artnet, accessed December 7, 2022, https://www.artnet.com/artists/raymond-steth/debris-V5oM1otXwFwwcnBRTb_3Vw2.

⁶²³ Raymond Steth, "Despair," c. 1935, Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search?q=Steth>.

Figure 80. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Patton St. Derelict*, c. 1935, lithograph, 16 in. × 11 1/2 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 72. (Used with permission from Free Library of Philadelphia. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶²⁴



⁶²⁴ Raymond Steth, *Patton St. Derelict*, c. 1935, Free Philadelphia Library digital collections, accessed December 7, 2022, <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/54052>.

Figure 81. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Evolution of Swing*, 1939, lithograph, 12 11/16 in. × 16 3/4 in., Metropolitan Museum of Art, exhibit number 45 (Used with permission from Metropolitan Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved).⁶²⁵



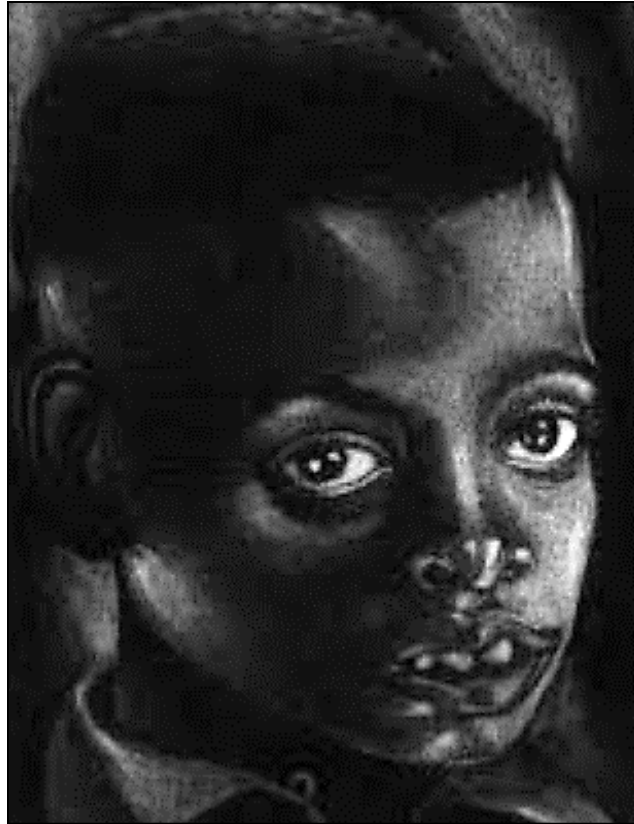
Figure 82. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Apostolic*, c. 1940, lithograph, 7 5/8 in. × 12 7/8 in., Metropolitan Museum of Art, exhibit number 73 (Used with permission from Metropolitan Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved).⁶²⁶



⁶²⁵ Raymond Steth, "Evolution of Swing (1939)," The Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed October 15, 2022, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/372052>.

⁶²⁶ Raymond Steth, "Apostolic," c. 1940, Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search?q=Steth>.

Figure 83. Raymond Steth (1917–1997), *Reggie*, 1939, carborundum print, 7 1/2 in. × 6 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 68. (Used with permission from Library of Congress. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶²⁷



3.32 Dox Thrash (1893–1965)

3.32.1 Biography

Dox Thrash, one of the most prolific Black artists of the early 20th century, was born on 22 March 1893, in Griffin, Georgia.⁶²⁸ Thrash grew up in a cabin previously inhabited by an enslaved family with his mother, a private cook, and three siblings.⁶²⁹ As a teenager, Thrash did clerical work for a local

⁶²⁷ Raymond Steth, "Reggie," 1940, Library of Congress, Control No. 00650457, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/item/00650457/>.

⁶²⁸ World War I Draft Cards. "Dox Thrash." June 5, 1917. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/9612021:6482>, accessed October 20, 2022.

⁶²⁹ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash: An African American Master Printmaker Rediscovered." Dox Thrash: Revealed. https://legacyweb.philamuseum.org/doc_downloads/education/ex_resources/doxThrash.pdf; 1900 Census. "Dox Thrash." Atlanta, Georgia. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/8891182:7602>, accessed October 20, 2022.

railroad company, though he always had a passion for art.⁶³⁰ Very few Southern schools would consider admitting a Black student, so Thrash left home in search of an integrated art institution at the age of fifteen. He settled in Chicago, where he worked as an elevator operator for the American Bank Note Engraving Company while taking night classes at the SAIC.⁶³¹

Thrash joined the Army in September 1917, an experience that would help jumpstart his art career. He was deployed to France in 1918 as a private in the 92nd Division. Mustard gas poisoning and shell shock hospitalized Thrash during his service, and he spent his recovery period entertaining other patients with vaudeville performances. Upon his return, Thrash toured the American South on a vaudeville circuit for a few months before settling back in Chicago. Thrash then enrolled full-time at the SAIC with a government financial aid reward for his service in WWI.⁶³² At the same time, Thrash took up drawing cartoons for a Chicago newspaper.⁶³³

Thrash moved to Philadelphia in the late 1920s, where he would profoundly impact the art community for the remainder of his career. He worked as a self-employed artist for several years before becoming the first Black artist assigned to the WPA Fine Print Workshop in 1937.⁶³⁴ Thrash immediately connected with other Black artists and professionals in the Philadelphia Pyramid Club, an institution that strongly supported Thrash's work. Alain Locke also promoted Thrash's art, personally selecting many of his pieces for display in national Black art exhibitions.⁶³⁵ The Harmon Foundation also provided financial support in many of the artist's endeavors.⁶³⁶

Thrash is most celebrated for his contributions to printmaking during his time at Philadelphia's Fine Print Workshop. There, he worked alongside

⁶³⁰ 1910 Census. "Dox Thrash," Atlanta, Georgia. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/147098720:7884>, accessed Oct. 20, 2022.

⁶³¹ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash: An African American Master Printmaker Rediscovered."

⁶³² Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash: An African American Master Printmaker Rediscovered."

⁶³³ 1920 Census. "Dox Thrash." Chicago, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/64147518:6061>, accessed October 27, 2022.

⁶³⁴ 1930 Census. "Dox Thrash." Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/55690423:6224>, accessed October 27, 2022; Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash." Collection. <https://philamuseum.org/collection/curated/dox-thrash>.

⁶³⁵ Donnelly. 2016. "Art of Dox Thrash."

⁶³⁶ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash: An African American Master Printmaker Rediscovered."

Samuel Brown, Claude Clark, and Raymond Steth, all of whom shared a predilection for Social Realism works. In his character studies, genre scenes, and landscapes, Thrash depicted scenes of ordinary life, work, and leisure for Black Philadelphians, as well as the challenges of Southern living based on childhood memories. He succeeded in presenting authentic slices of life with incredible care and dignity.⁶³⁷ The artist's acclaim came also from his development of a new printmaking process—carborundum mezzotint printing. Carborundum, or synthetic silicon carbide, is currently used in bulletproof vests and car brake discs; however, Thrash used the material to apply more ink on printing plates.⁶³⁸ The process gave Thrash's prints more contrast and depth, as he was able to apply color from dark to light. Thrash originally called the new prints Opheliagraphs, in honor of his mother. The medium was official recognized at a 1938 exhibition in the National Museum of Natural history in Washington, DC.⁶³⁹

Thrash continued creating in a variety of styles until the end of his life. Unfortunately, his carborundum medium was never popularized beyond Philadelphia and is rarely seen outside of works from the Fine Print Workshop.⁶⁴⁰ Thrash died in Philadelphia in 1965, survived by his wife Edna McAllister.⁶⁴¹ His contributions have been recognized in multiple retrospective exhibitions, including the 2001 *Dox Thrash: An African-American Master Printmaker Rediscovered* at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the 2015 Woodmere Art Museum presentation *We Speak: Black Artists in Philadelphia, 1920s–1970s*. His works remain on display at many prominent art institutions nationwide.⁶⁴²

3.32.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Thrash presented 17 pieces of various mediums at the Fort Huachuca exhibition. Most of his featured works were prints, including *Catfishin'!* (c. 1930), *Surface Mining* (c. 1930), *Deacon Jones' Well* (c. 1935), *Old Barns* (c. 1935), *Boats at Night* (c. 1935), *Happy Journey* (c. 1938), *Monday Morning*

⁶³⁷ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash,"

⁶³⁸ Mansfield, B. 2017. "SAIC Alum Depicted African American Life Through New Printmaking Process," School of the Art Institute of Chicago. <https://www.saic.edu/news/dox-thrash-creator-opheliagraph>.

⁶³⁹ Philadelphia Museum of Art. n.d. "Dox Thrash: An African American Master Printmaker Rediscovered."

⁶⁴⁰ Donnelly. 2017. "Art of Dox Thrash."

⁶⁴¹ Pennsylvania, US Death Certificates, 1906–1969. "Dox Thrash." April 19, 1965. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14946124:5164>, accessed October 20, 2022.

⁶⁴² Donnelly. 2017. "Art of Dox Thrash."

Wash (c. 1938), *Cabin Days* (c. 1938–1939), *Ebony Joe* (c. 1939), *Octoroon* (1939), *Coal Yard* (c. 1940), *Demolition* (c. 1940), and *Life* (1941). In his 13 prints, Thrash used lithography (Figure 92–Figure 94), drypoint (Figure 95), aquatinting (Figure 85, Figure 87, and Figure 88), carborundum relief etching (Figure 89), and his signature carborundum mezzotint (Figure 84, Figure 86, Figure 90, Figure 91, and Figure 96). The nature of Thrash's three paintings is unknown (no attributable images for *Work at Last*, *While Philly Sleeps*, *Landscape*, or *Portrait of R.W.*). The selection is representative of the range of subject matter Thrash depicted throughout his career, including portraiture, Southern landscapes, and Northern industrial scenes.

Figure 84. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Deacon Jones' Well*, c. 1935, carborundum mezzotint, 10 3/4 in. × 14 in., St. Louis Art Museum, exhibit number 77. (Unable to trace original source of image below. Cataloged at the St. Louis Art Museum; used with permission. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴³



⁶⁴³ Dox Thrash, "Deacon Jones' Well," c. 1935, GSA Fine Arts catalog, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts?artwork/2413>.

Figure 85. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Cat Fishin'*, c. 1930, aquatint and etching on wove paper, 8 1/16 in. × 10 1/4 in., Free Library of Philadelphia, exhibit number 82. (Image from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 86. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Surface Mining*, c. 1930, carborundum mezzotint, 16 in. × 20 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 79. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 87. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Old Barns*, c. 1935, etching and aquatint on wove paper, 11 1/8 in. × 13 3/4 in., Indiana State University, exhibit number 78. (Used with permission from Free Library of Philadelphia. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴⁴



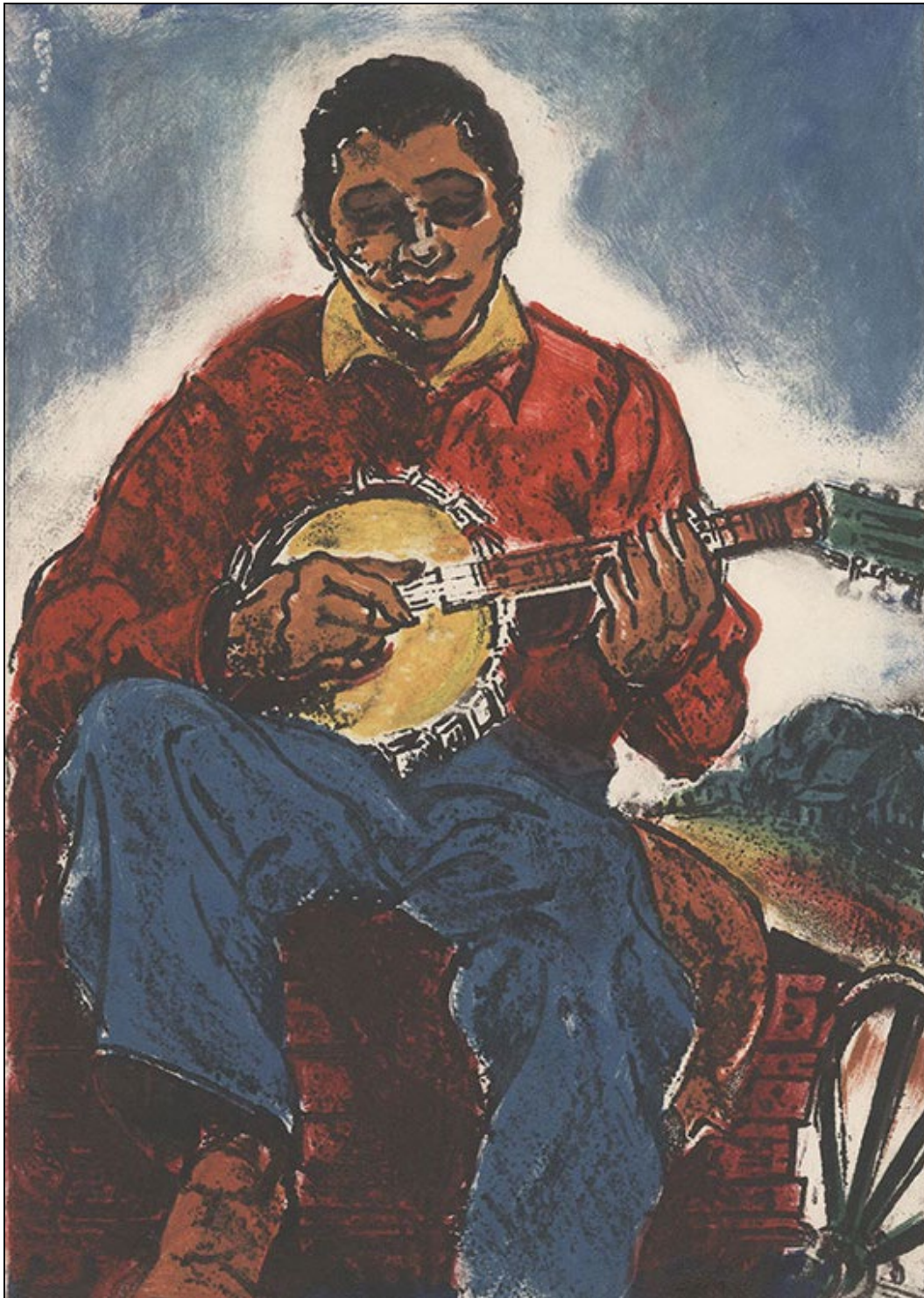
Figure 88. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Boats at Night*, c. 1935, aquatint, 7 3/8 in. × 11 7/16 in., Free Library of Philadelphia, exhibit number 81. (Used with permission from Free Library of Philadelphia. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴⁵



⁶⁴⁴ Dox Thrash, "Old Barns," c. 1935, GSA Fine Arts catalog, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts?artwork/15617>.

⁶⁴⁵ Dox Thrash, "Boats at Night," c. 1935, GSA Fine Arts catalog, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts?artwork/16887>.

Figure 89. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Happy Journey*, c. 1938, color carborundum relief etching, 9 15/16 in. × 7 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 55. (Used with permission from Free Library of Philadelphia. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴⁶



⁶⁴⁶ Dox Thrash, "Happy Journey," c. 1938, Free Library of Philadelphia digital collections, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/47011>.

Figure 90. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Monday Morning Wash*, c. 1938, color carborundum mezzotint, 11 in. × 14 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 75. (Used with permission from Philadelphia Museum of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴⁷

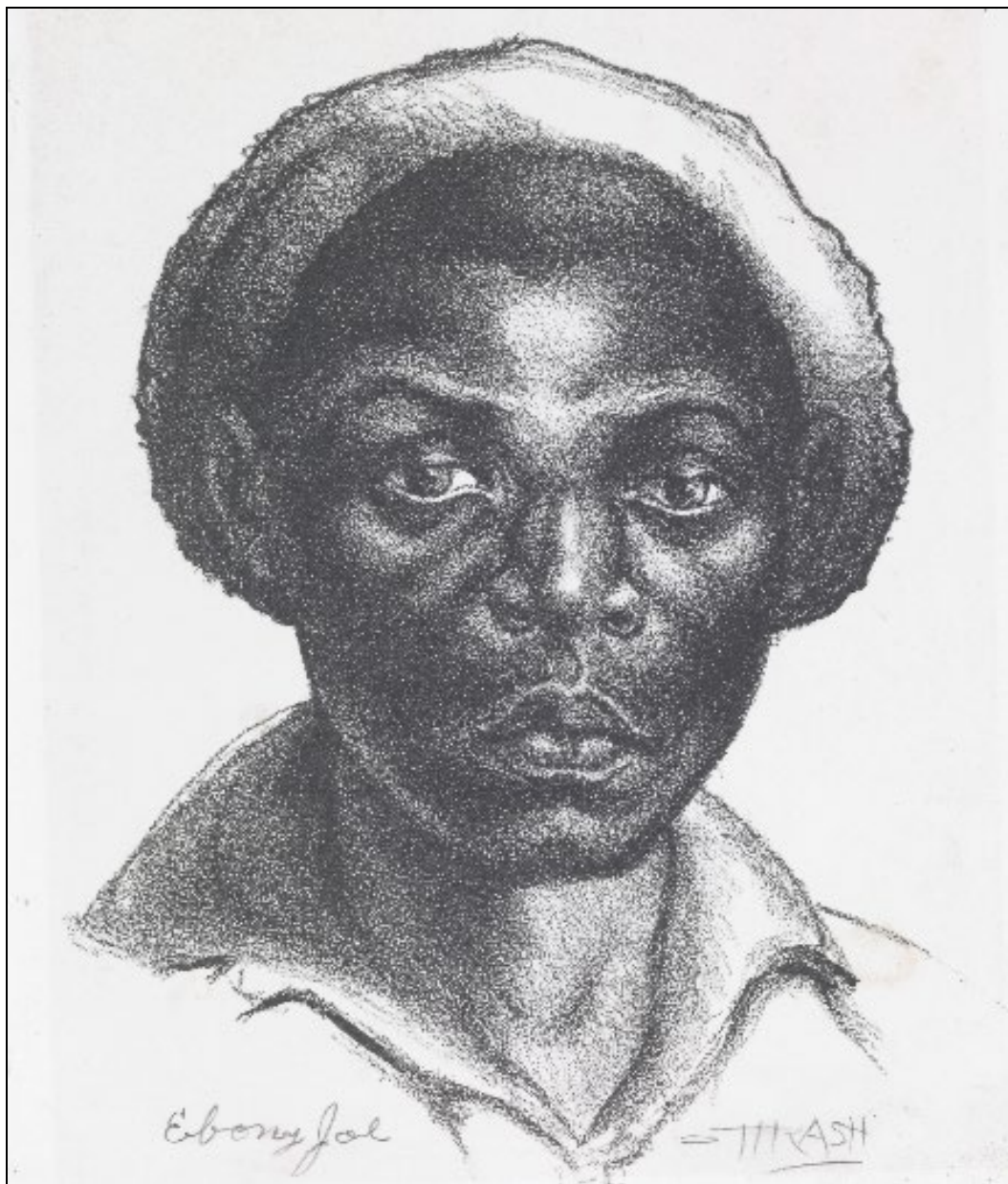


⁶⁴⁷ Dox Thrash, "Monday Morning Wash," c. 1938, Philadelphia Museum of Art, accessed February 8, 2023, <https://philamuseum.org/collection/object/46622>.

Figure 91. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Cabin Days*, c. 1938–1939, carborundum mezzotint, 20 in. × 16 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 76. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 92. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Ebony Joe*, c. 1939, lithograph, 10 5/8 in. × 8 7/8 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 56. (Used with permission from St. Louis Art Museum. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴⁸



⁶⁴⁸ Dox Thrash, "Ebony Joe," c. 1939, GSA Fine Arts catalog, <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts/?artwork/2414>, accessed December 9, 2022.

Figure 93. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Octoroon*, 1939, lithograph, 15 3/4 in. × 13 1/4 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 57. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)

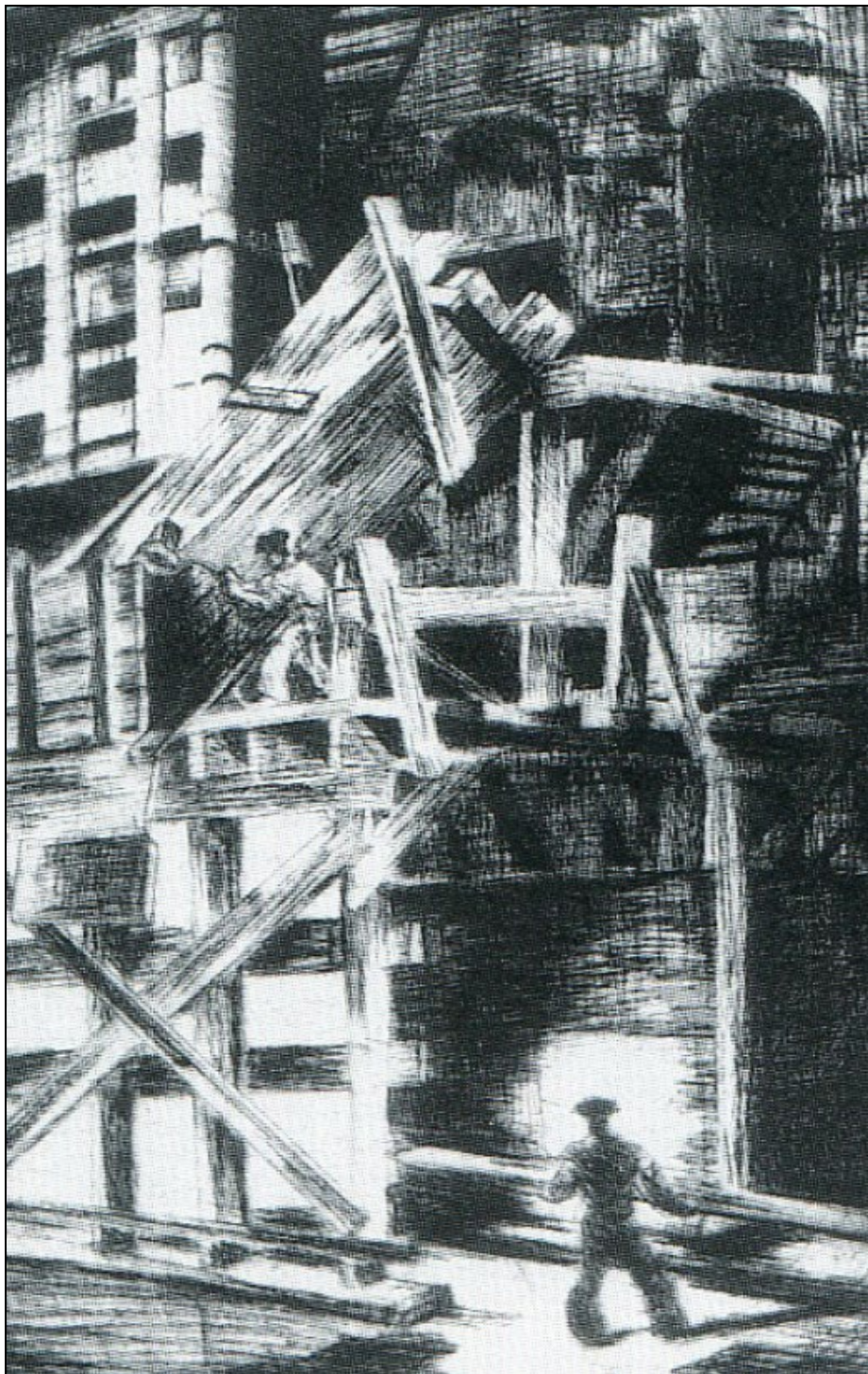


Figure 94. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Coal Yard*, c. 1940, lithograph, 10 3/4 in. × 13 1/2 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 74. (Used with permission from Free Library of Philadelphia. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁴⁹



⁶⁴⁹ Dox Thrash, "Coal Yard," c. 1940, Free Library of Philadelphia Digital Collections, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/46998>.

Figure 95. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Demolition*, c. 1940, drypoint, 12 in. × 9 1/2 in., St. Louis Art Museum, exhibit number 80. (Unable to trace original source of image below; cataloged at St. Louis Art Museum, Used with permission. Applicable rights reserved.)⁶⁵⁰



⁶⁵⁰ Dox Thrash, "Demolition," c. 1940, GSA Fine Arts catalog, accessed December 9, 2022, <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts/?artwork/2411>.

Figure 96. Dox Thrash (1893–1965), *Life*, 1941, carborundum mezzotint, 18 in. × 16 in., Philadelphia Museum of Art, exhibit number 50. (Used with permission from Howard University Gallery of Art. Applicable rights reserved.)



3.33 Adrian Troy (1901–1977)

3.33.1 Biography

Adrian Troy (born Jean Adrien Troye) was born to an English father and a French mother in Bordeaux, France, 1901.⁶⁵¹ He received his high school and university education in France before attending the École des Beaux-arts de Bordeaux. Troy had ample travel opportunities in his young life, indicating that his family was wealthy. He spent a year in both the West Indies and West Africa and lived in East Africa for six months each year between 1917 and 1921.⁶⁵² It is unclear why Troy spent so much time in Africa, though it may be related to his later career as a semanticist. Regardless, this interest in African life and culture helps explain this White immigrant's involvement in a Black art exhibition.⁶⁵³

Troy arrived in the United States in 1922 and settled in Chicago.⁶⁵⁴ There are no records documenting Troy's activity in the city until the mid-1930s, when he began working for the WPA Easel and Graphics Division. Troy remembers this period as the most influential in his artistic career, during which he exhibited at the SAIC and the 1939–1940 New York World's Fair. Sponsored by the WPA, he made several woodcut illustrations for Federal Writers' Project books, including *Cavalcade of the American Negro*, published to accompany the 1940 American Negro Exposition.⁶⁵⁵ This project was likely an extension of Troy's involvement with the SSCAC.

Troy remained in Chicago for much of his later life, working as a professor and linguist. Through the 1950s and 1960s, he taught wood engraving courses at the SAIC.⁶⁵⁶ Troy was also a famous semanticist, specializing in ancient French, Chinese, Hindu, and several African languages. He acted as a consultant for the National Geographic Society and the Chicago Field Museum and was recognized in *Time* magazine for his linguistic contribution to art history.⁶⁵⁷ Troy died of cancer in Memphis, Tennessee,

⁶⁵¹ Illinois, *US Federal Naturalization Records, 1856–1991*. "Adrian Troy." April 14, 1938. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/477876:61196>, accessed October 8, 2022.

⁶⁵² Scanlan, Patricia Smith. n.d. "Adrian Troy." *Modernism in the New City, Chicago Artists, 1920–1950*. <https://www.chicagomodern.org/artists/adrian-troy>.

⁶⁵³ Scanlan. n.d. "Adrian Troy."

⁶⁵⁴ Illinois, *US Federal Naturalization Records, 1856–1991*, "Adrian Troy."

⁶⁵⁵ Scanlan. n.d. "Adrian Troy."

⁶⁵⁶ Scanlan. n.d. "Adrian Troy."

⁶⁵⁷ Memphis Press-Scimitar. 1977. "Services Will be Held for Noted Semanticist." *The Memphis Press-Scimitar*, August 8, 1977. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/799954463>.

in 1977. His WPA art is now held in several notable collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.⁶⁵⁸

3.33.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Troy likely became involved with the Fort Huachuca exhibition due to his association with the WPA. Though a majority of Troy's WPA works were woodcuts, he produced a few brightly colored oil city scenes. *Salt Works*, Troy's oil painting presented at Fort Huachuca, was likely inspired by Chicago's Morton Salt Company, but it is unknown whether it reflected the vibrancy of his other oils or the solemn Social Realist style of his woodcuts (no image attribution).⁶⁵⁹

3.34 Joseph Vavak (1891–1969)

3.34.1 Biography

Joseph Vavak was a White artist born on 4 May 1891, in Vienna, Austria. The Vavak family arrived in the United States in 1904, taking up residence in Chicago.⁶⁶⁰ Joseph began attending summer classes at the SAIC in 1908. He spent the rest of the year playing piano in various bands and orchestras to help support his family. Life continued as such until 1916, when Vavak completed his studies at the SAIC.⁶⁶¹ He was then employed as an artist and musician at the Rhodes Café until he enlisted in the US Navy in 1917.⁶⁶² By 1920, Vavak had completed his period of military service and returned to Chicago to continue painting and performing. His involvement in the bohemian music scene introduced him to many leftist individuals, and Vavak's works regularly appeared in the American Communist Party newspaper.⁶⁶³

Intending to continue his artistic training, Vavak traveled to Paris in 1929; however, financial woes forced him back to the newly Depression-stricken Chicago. He gained employment with the Illinois FAP shortly after its

⁶⁵⁸ Scanlan. n.d. "Adrian Troy."

⁶⁵⁹ Scanlan. n.d. "Adrian Troy."

⁶⁶⁰ *US Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791–1992*. "Joseph Vavak." November 30, 1914. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1423186:61196>, accessed October 7, 2022.

⁶⁶¹ Schulman, D. n.d. "Joseph Vavak." *Modernism in the New City, Chicago Artists, 1920–1950*. <https://www.chicagomodern.org/artists/joseph-vavak>.

⁶⁶² *World War I Draft Cards*. "Joseph Vavak." June 5, 1917. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/9571149:6482>, accessed October 7, 2022.

⁶⁶³ Schulman. n.d. "Joseph Vavak."

inception in the mid-1930s. As a part of the Mural and Easel Divisions, Vavak focused his art on the Chicago landscape and the experience of the American laborer.⁶⁶⁴ Though Vavak was a White person, his association with the Chicago WPA and labor-centric subject matter likely established a connection with the city's Black art scene. This connection may have enabled Vavak's involvement with the Fort Huachuca exhibit.

By the 1950s, Joseph and his wife Lucille moved to the Chicago suburbs, where he continued painting and working various other jobs. He was employed as a clerk and typist for a letter shop for a time.⁶⁶⁵ Additionally, he offered piano lessons to the local Roselle community. In 1963, the pair retired to Florida.⁶⁶⁶ Vavak's paintings grew gentler as he aged, evolving to feature light watercolors and abstraction.⁶⁶⁷ He died in 1969.⁶⁶⁸

3.34.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

Journalist Roger Hurlburt described Vavak as an Expressionist whose early works were "thick and textural, with deep colors enforcing the firm contours of architecture and heavy equipment."⁶⁶⁹ *At Work*, featured at Fort Huachuca, likely exhibits this signature style and subject matter (no image attribution).

3.35 Earl Walker (1912–unknown)

3.35.1 Biography

Earl Walker was born on 10 March 1912, in Brownville, Tennessee.⁶⁷⁰ At some point in his early adulthood, Walker relocated to the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. There, he trained under George Neal. It is unclear whether he was affiliated with the Chicago Arts and Crafts Guild, where Neal

⁶⁶⁴ Schulman. n.d. "Joseph Vavak."

⁶⁶⁵ 1950 Census., "Joseph Vavak." Roselle, Illinois. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/224861648:62308>, accessed October 7, 2022.

⁶⁶⁶ Schulman. n.d. "Joseph Vavak."

⁶⁶⁷ Hurlburt, R. 1980. "New Works in Good Taste." *Fort Lauderdale News*, Oct. 12, 1980. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/234900348>.

⁶⁶⁸ US Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014. "Joseph Vavak." <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/64293535:3693>, accessed October 7, 2022.

⁶⁶⁹ Hurlburt. 1980. "New Works in Good Taste."

⁶⁷⁰ World War II Draft Card. "Earl Walker." October 16, 1940. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/40522170:2238>, accessed October 13, 2022.

taught for some time, though Walker was known to work in the same circle as other guild members, including Cortor, Davis, White, and Sebree.⁶⁷¹

At the height of the WPA era, Walker found employment with the Illinois FAP Easel Department.⁶⁷² He was active in the SSCAC and presented paintings alongside many of the other Chicago-based artists featured at the Fort Huachuca exhibition. He is recorded as a presenter in a Black art show at a public library in Evanston, Illinois, and may have been included in SSCAC-sponsored showings at the Library of Congress and the Howard University Gallery of Art.⁶⁷³ Walker was likely included in the Fort Huachuca exhibition due to his involvement with these organizations.

Walker's draft registration card indicates that he served in some military capacity during WWII. A handwritten note on the card states that Walker was honorably discharged on 19 December 1943.⁶⁷⁴ Additional information about Walker's career and personal life could not be found.

3.35.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

There are very few records of Walker's pieces, and his style, technique, and subject matter is entirely unknown. The title of his oil painting featured at Fort Huachuca, *Cornerstone*, offers little clarity (no image attribution).

3.36 Charles White (1918–1979)

3.36.1 Biography

Charles White was born in the South Side of Chicago in 1918, where he was raised by his mother, Ethelene. White developed an interest in the arts from an early age, inspired in part by regular trips to the nearby Art Institute with his mother. He also spent a good deal of time at the public library, where he would stay while Ethelene was at work. There, White was introduced to the social and political power of the arts through works of the Harlem Renaissance.⁶⁷⁵ As a teenager, White engaged in the political sphere, working

⁶⁷¹ Porter. 1943. *Modern Negro Art*, 132.

⁶⁷² World War II Draft Cards, "Earl Walker."

⁶⁷³ Chicago Tribune. 1941. "Negro Artists Have Show in Suburb Library" *Chicago Tribune*, March 16, 1941. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/372344134>.

⁶⁷⁴ World War II Draft Cards, "Earl Walker."

⁶⁷⁵ Miller, M. H. 2018. "The Man Who Taught a Generation of Black Artists Gets His Own Retrospective." *The New York Times Style Magazine*, September 28, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/28/t-magazine/art/charles-white-moma-retrospective.html>.

as an artist for the National Negro Congress in Chicago and befriending many literary contributors to the Black Chicago Renaissance.⁶⁷⁶

White's natural artistic inclinations developed further during his participation in the Chicago Arts and Crafts Guild. His talent was recognized by multiple art academies, two of which offered White full scholarships. Both academies, however, revoked their admission offers when they discovered he was Black. Undeterred, White was later accepted to the SAIC, where he completed the two-year program in a single year.⁶⁷⁷ He earned his degree in 1938, and soon after began his career in the WPA Mural Division at the SSCAC. His talents as a muralist were quickly recognized. In 1939, White was commissioned to create a mural for Howard University. The following year, his piece won first prize at the *Art of the American Negro* exhibition.⁶⁷⁸ During this time, White met fellow artist Elizabeth Catlett, whom he married in 1941.⁶⁷⁹

As the WPA era ended, White turned his attention to teaching. He worked as an art instructor at George Washington Carver Community School in New York from 1943 to 1945 before becoming an artist in residence at Howard University. White took a long hiatus from teaching from the late 1940s through the 1950s, which he spent in New York. In the city, he forged ties with the politically active American Contemporary Art Galleries. White's works of social commentary gained traction through this relationship as the gallery brought his pieces to more than a hundred exhibitions nationwide.⁶⁸⁰

In the 1960s, White became a professor at Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles. White's worsening health also contributed to this move. For most of his adult life, White suffered from tuberculosis, and California had an appropriate climate to mitigate the effects of the disease.⁶⁸¹ However, challenges to White's health did not hinder his creativity or activism in his later life. He continued to produce realist works commenting racial inequity, while also joining his students in conceptual art experimentation.

⁶⁷⁶ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 169; Miller. 2018. "The Man Who Taught a Generation of Black Artists Gets His Own Retrospective."

⁶⁷⁷ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 169.

⁶⁷⁸ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 169.

⁶⁷⁹ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 169.

⁶⁸⁰ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 170.

⁶⁸¹ Miller. 2018. "The Man Who Taught a Generation of Black Artists Gets His Own Retrospective."

The remainder of White's career was spent sharing his artistic talents and social convictions with a new generation of artists. He died near Los Angeles, California, in 1979.⁶⁸²

White's legacy as an artist survives through his works, which are preserved in the many collections worldwide. Notably, the Museum of Modern Art and the Art Institute of Chicago collaborated to hold a Charles White retrospective exhibition from 2018 to 2019 to honor the 100th anniversary of his birth. White, called "one of the 20th century's most important and dedicated teachers," also maintains a living legacy through his students, which include prominent contemporary artists David Hammons and Kerry James Marshall.⁶⁸³ To memorialize his contribution to education, Charles White Elementary School was founded on the former campus of Otis Art Institute and remains in operation today.⁶⁸⁴

3.36.2 Art at 1943 Fort Huachuca exhibition

White produced the mural *Five Great Americans* during his time with the WPA (Figure 97). The piece, which features Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, George Washington Carter, and Marian Anderson, is demonstrative of White's typical style and artistic purpose. In *Five Great Americans* as in all his works, White intended to create "images of dignity" for his Black subjects.⁶⁸⁵ His prominent use of shadow creates a sense of foreboding, while his figures exude strength. White's tendency to emphasize his subjects' heads, arms, and hands "infuses these otherwise downtrodden figures with sublime grandeur."⁶⁸⁶ *Five Great Americans* was prominently displayed above the entrance to the MVOC dance hall (Figure 98). However, *Five Great Americans* was probably not made specifically for the MVOC since the painting was created in 1939 and the MVOC was constructed in 1942.⁶⁸⁷

⁶⁸² Steve and Linda Malkson. January 11, 2016. "Charles Wilbert White, Jr." <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156982547/charles-wilbert-white>, accessed Dec. 27, 2022.

⁶⁸³ Museum of Modern Art. n.d. "Charles White: A Retrospective." Exhibitions. <https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/3930>.

⁶⁸⁴ Los Angeles Unified School District. n.d. "Charles White Elementary Visual Arts Magnet." Homepage. <https://white-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/>.

⁶⁸⁵ Adler, E. n.d. "Charles White, American, 1918–1979." The Museum of Modern Art. <https://www.moma.org/artists/6339>.

⁶⁸⁶ Farrington. 2016. *African American Art*, 168.

⁶⁸⁷ Obelisk Art History. n.d. "Five Great American Negroes." Artists. <https://www.arthistoryproject.com/artists/charles-white/five-great-american-negroes/>; Smith et. al. 2012. *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club*, 67.

Figure 97. Charles White (1918–1979), *Progress of the American Negro: Five Great Americans*, 1939–1940, oil on canvas, 61 in. × 156 1/2 in., Howard University Gallery of Art, exhibit number 83. (Used with permission from Howard University School of Law. Applicable rights reserved.)



Figure 98. Charles White's *Five Great Americans* is seen on the back wall during the exhibit dedication. (Used with permission from Fort Huachuca Museum. Public domain.)



4 Conclusion and Recommendations

In response to anticipated plans to rehabilitate the MVOC at Fort Huachuca and to place reproductions of art from the 1943 *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* on the interior, the purpose of this report is to contextualize the exhibit and its participants. To accomplish this objective, the report examines the history of Black art in the early 20th century and the government-sponsored programs that empowered it, explores the history of the exhibit, and provides biographies of the artists who participated in it. Additionally, Appendix A itemizes the 86 works of art that were on display and provides information (where known) about repositories that have originals or reproductions of the art today. The 86 works included 38 paintings, 44 prints, one mural, and three sculptures. Of these, the locations of at least 56 pieces are known and 30 are unknown. It is believed that the entirety of the 1943 art exhibit went to Howard University in 1946; however, the current status of some of the pieces is unknown. Because artists who created prints made several copies of their work, many prints ended up in collections outside of Howard; therefore, it is possible to know what most pieces in the “Prints and Drawings” category look like. Paintings, on the other hand, are usually singular works, so a piece in this category will not be found in multiple collections. Those that are not cataloged with Howard University may be in private collections.

4.1 Conclusion

The exhibit was significant for assembling the works of some of the WPA’s most prominent artists into one venue, and the dedication ceremony itself was a major social event at Fort Huachuca. Although the exhibit did not generate much attention outside of regional sources in 1943, it should be considered one of the most significant events in the intersection of American art, military history, and segregation. One way to consider the significance of the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* is to compare it to other WPA-FAP art projects and exhibitions. Using a framework established by art historian Mary Ann Calo, the importance of Fort Huachuca’s exhibit can be considered in terms of four criteria: Quantity, Content, Location, and Status.⁶⁸⁸ Applying these criteria, the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* was unique because it contained a high percentage of art created by prominent Black artists from across the country and featured works from a variety of

⁶⁸⁸ Calo. 2016. “Expansion and Redirection,” 89.

mediums.⁶⁸⁹ In addition, the exhibit represents an important moment in the Army's preintegration era because the authors have found no sources indicating that the Army had hosted an event celebrating the artistic or cultural contributions of Black Americans before the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists*. Perhaps most importantly, since most Black art projects and exhibitions hosted by the WPA usually occurred in cosmopolitan urban centers, hosting the *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* at a remote military post exposed thousands of servicemen and women to the works of nationally prominent Black artists. Therefore, this exhibit represented a unique form of WPA-FAP outreach beyond the typical metropolitan context.

4.2 Recommendations

While this analysis of the 1943 *Exhibition of 37 Negro Artists* at Fort Huachuca has found that most of the artists' work was likely created while under the employment of the WPA, most of the artwork titles do not appear in the *WPA Artwork in Non-Federal Repositories* lists. If the pieces of art from the Fort Huachuca exhibition are intended to be reproduced and placed in the MVOC, ownership and copyright need to be determined for each one.

In November 2022, the consulting parties for the rehabilitation of the MVOC agreed upon verbiage in the "SRM [Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization] Planning Charrette Report: Renovate Historic Building 66050 for Range Control Operations, Ft. Huachuca, AZ Project No. HUAC HI021001-1J" that "Digital imaging wallcovering provides opportunity to replicate the original art mural in the dance hall [Charles White's *Five Great Americans* mural]. In addition, framed art with descriptive plaques can be located throughout the common spaces. Framed art is OMA [Operation and Maintenance, Army] funded. Wallcovering is MILCON [Military Construction] funded."

It is highly recommended that GSA investigate the ownership of the pieces described in this report and if they are found to have been created under one of the New Deal art programs to add them to the GSA inventory. Charles White's *Five Great Americans* mural is a key aspect of the rehabilitation of the MVOC. A formal request for this investigation may need to come from the Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander.

⁶⁸⁹ Calo. 2016. "Expansion and Redirection," 84-89.

It is recommended that further investigation be performed on the provenance and ownership of Lew Davis's *The Negro in America's Wars* mural. From the analysis of the timeline of when Davis enlisted and when he created the mural, it was created while he was a servicemember of the War Department. This fact would make the mural federal government property. The placement of Davis's mural inside the MVOC is unknown, but having a reproduction placed either in the new workspace or the exhibit space is key to understanding the history of the MVOC.

It is recommended that through the Section 106 consultation process for the rehabilitation of the MVOC that the consulting parties agree upon the scope of the reproduction of the art from the 1943 exhibit, i.e., how many pieces should be reproduced and whether the exhibit will be replicated in its entirety or only selected works to represent the scope of the exhibit.

It is recommended that the Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander formally write a letter to the president of Howard University and the director of the Howard University Gallery of Art to request archival full reproductions of the pieces of art found in the collection of the Howard University Gallery of Art. Per the MVOC planning charrette report mentioned above, the reproductions of the artwork would be OMA funded.

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Appendix A: Works Included in the 1943 Art Exhibit

The following is a list of works included at the 1943 art exhibit, along with repository information, when known (Table A-1). The 86 works included 38 paintings, 44 prints, one mural, and three sculptures. Of these, the locations of at least 56 pieces are known and 30 are unknown. Important sources include a reference book entitled *WPA Artwork in Non-Federal Repositories, 2nd Edition* (1999) and the General Services Administration (GSA) online fine arts catalog.⁶⁹⁰ It is believed that the entirety of the 1943 art exhibit went to Howard University in 1946, however the current status of some of the pieces is unknown. Because artists who created prints made several copies of their work, many ended up in collections outside of Howard. Therefore, it is possible to know what most pieces in the “Prints and Drawings” category look like (no. 39–82). Paintings, on the other hand, are usually singular works, so a piece in this category will not be found in multiple collections (no. 1–39). Those that are not cataloged with Howard may be in private collections.

Table A-1. Works included in the 1943 art exhibit.

No.	Name	Work Title	Repository	GSA Object No.
Paintings				
1.	Avery, Henry	<i>Girl with Peaches</i>	Unknown	
2.	Avery, Henry	<i>Big Apples</i>	Unknown	
3.	Carter, William	<i>South Side Alley</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art	
4.	Cortor, Eldzier	<i>Adjustment</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.9.P	
5.	Cortor, Eldzier	<i>She Didn't Forget</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.8.P	
6.	Crite, Allen	<i>Shawmut Avenue</i>	Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	
7.	Davis, Charles	<i>Benediction</i>	Unknown	
8.	Davis, Charles	<i>Newsboy</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.14.P	
9.	Dillard, Thurman	<i>Aviator</i>	Unknown	

⁶⁹⁰ *WPA Artwork in Non-Federal Repositories, 2nd Edition* (Washington DC: United States General Services Administration, 1999); “Fine Arts,” GSA fine arts online catalog, <https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts>.

Table A-1 (cont.). Works included in the 1943 art exhibit.

No.	Name	Work Title	Repository	GSA Object No.
Paintings (cont.)				
10.	Ellison, Walter	<i>The Story Book</i>	Unknown	
11.	Loper, Edward	<i>McCauley Street</i>	Unknown	
12.	Lutz, John C.	<i>Early Snow</i>	Unknown	
13.	Moore, Lonnie	<i>After School</i>	Unknown	
14.	Motley, Archibald	<i>Carnival</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.24.P	
15.	Motley, Archibald	<i>Arrival of the Slaves</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.26.P	
16.	Sebree, Charles	<i>Portrait of a Man</i>	Unknown	
17.	Sebree, Charles	<i>Sunflowers</i>	Milwaukee Art Museum	
18.	Davis, Charles	<i>Johnny Mae Sewing</i>	Unknown	
19.	Howard, Humbert	<i>The Gardner's House</i>	Unknown	
20.	Lightfoot, Elba	<i>Mural Panel</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art 1947.20.P	
21.	Motley, Archibald	<i>The Plotters</i>	Private Collection	
22.	Walker, Earl	<i>Cornerstone</i>	Unknown	
23.	Vavak, Joseph	<i>At Work</i>	Unknown	
24.	Troy, Adrian	<i>Salt Works</i>	Unknown	
25.	Bruce, Stuart	<i>Man Shoveling</i>	Unknown	
26.	Cortor, Eldzier	<i>Still Life Figure</i>	Unknown	
27.	Gillien, Theodore	<i>Blues in Flood Time</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art	
28.	Neal, Frank	<i>Girl in Yellow Hat</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 44.1.D	
29.	Brown, Samuel	<i>Portrait Study</i>	Unknown	
30.	Brown, Samuel	<i>Child Smiling</i>	Unknown	
31.	Brown, Samuel	<i>Writing Lesson</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art 47.17.G-Lith	
32.	Thrash, Dox	<i>While Philly Sleeps</i>	Unknown	
33.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Work at Last</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN2681	
34.	Brown, Samuel	<i>Child Reading</i>	Unknown	
35.	Carter, William	<i>Landscape</i>	Unknown	
36.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Landscape</i>	Unknown	
37.	Gaines, Felix	<i>Mural Sketch No. 1</i>	Unknown	
38.	Gaines, Felix	<i>Mural Sketch No. 2</i>	Unknown	

Table A-1 (cont.). Works included in the 1943 art exhibit.

No.	Name	Work Title	Repository	GSA Object No.
Prints and Drawings				
39.	Chessé, Ralph	<i>Family Group</i>	Detroit Institute of Arts Accession No. 43.146	FA9264
40.	Cortor, Eldzier	<i>The Task</i>	Unknown	
41.	Cortor, Eldzier	<i>Study No. 10</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art	
42.	Cortor, Eldzier	<i>Study No. 11</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art	
43.	Laessle, Paul	<i>Night Goings On</i>	Baltimore Museum of Art Accession No. L.1943.9.651	FA6782
44.	Malnate, Edward	<i>Tobacco Rows</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 2-1943-276 (5)	FA15297
45.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Evolution of Swing</i>	Metropolitan Museum of Art Accession No. 43.46.55	FA16903
46.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Portrait of R.W.</i>	Unknown	
47.	Ellison, Walter	<i>Monotype</i>	Unknown	
48.	Heldner, Knute	<i>The Flood</i>	Weisman Art Museum	FA4443
49.	Sallée, Charles	<i>Used Cars</i>	San Francisco Museum of Modern Art	FA6450
50.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Life</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art; Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN73	FA15115
51.	Jones, Lawrence	<i>St. Louis Cathedral</i>	Unknown	
52.	Jones, Lawrence	<i>Wagon</i>	Unknown	
53.	Schardt, Bernard	<i>Girl Sewing</i>	University of Michigan Museum of Art; Smithsonian American Art Museum Accession No. 1975.83.82	FA14110
54.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Recreation</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art	FA15064
55.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Happy Journey</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art; Free Library of Philadelphia Accession No. facwp00176	
56.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Ebony Joe</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN161	
57.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Octoroon</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN1164	FA22020
58.	Brown, Samuel	<i>Abstract</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 2-1943-276 (94)	FA12952
59.	Brown, Samuel	<i>Writing Lesson</i>	Free Library of Philadelphia	FA21345

Table A-1 (cont.). Works included in the 1943 art exhibit.

No.	Name	Work Title	Repository	GSA Object No.
60.	Clark, Claude	<i>Jumpin' Jive</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 2-1943-276 (51)	FA11413
61.	Clark, Claude	<i>Boogie-Woogie</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.23.G-Lith Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 1941-53-400	
62.	Clark, Claude	<i>Hills</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 2-1943-276 (72)	FA3170
63.	Clark, Claude	<i>Time Out</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN1200 Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 2-1943-275 (7)	FA11420
64.	Pringle, Bryant	<i>Arc Welder</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 2008.115.5237	
65.	Sallée, Charles	<i>Bertha</i>	Case Western Reserve University	FA19269
66.	Sallée, Charles	<i>The Post Setters</i>	Case Western Reserve University	FA19273
67.	Sallée, Charles	<i>Swingtime</i>	Case Western Reserve University; Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 1215 and NN1344	FA19274
68.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Reggie</i>	Newark Museum; Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN3646	FA3510
69.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Sidewalk Quintet</i>	Newark Museum; Metropolitan Museum of Art Accession No. 1999.529.158	FA3513
70.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Debris</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art	
71.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Despair</i>	Metropolitan Museum of Art Accession No. 43.46.86	FA15058
72.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Patton St. Derelict</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN1220	
73.	Steth, Raymond	<i>Apostolic</i>	Metropolitan Museum of Art Accession No. 43.46.83	
74.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Coal Yard</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN3140	
75.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Monday Morning Wash</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art Accession No. 1941-53-377	FA12968

Table A-1 (cont.). Works included in the 1943 art exhibit.

No.	Name	Work Title	Repository	GSA Object No.
76.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Cabin Days</i>	Free Library of Philadelphia; Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN159	FA22011
77.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Deacon Jones Well</i>	Philadelphia Museum of Art	FA15109
78.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Old Barns</i>	Indiana State University	FA20624
79.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Surface Mining</i>	Newark Museum; Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN163	FA3537
80.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Demolition</i>	Saint Louis Art Museum	FA5238
81.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Boats at Night</i>	Free Library of Philadelphia Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN157	FA22016
82.	Thrash, Dox	<i>Cat Fishin'</i>	Free Library of Philadelphia; Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. NN3321	FA22041
Mural				
83.	White, Charles	<i>Five Great Americans</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.32.P	
Sculpture				
84.	Mathews, Lester	<i>Head</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art	
85.	Johnson, Sargent	<i>Hippo</i>	Howard University Gallery of Art Accession No. 47.3.S	
86.	Johnson, Sargent	<i>Woman</i>	Unknown	

Appendix B: Dedication Pamphlet from the 1943 Art Exhibit



EXHIBITION

of the work of

37

NEGRO ARTISTS

Officers Mountainview Club

Fort Huachuca, Arizona

May 16 to 22 1943

INTRODUCTION

In our search to find ways and means to decorate appropriately the Officer's Mountainview Club, we considered the possibilities of obtaining some of the works of the Negro Artists which had been accomplished through the WPA program of recent years.

The generous cooperation of all those from whom we sought assistance has made possible the collection of these interesting and valuable pieces of art. Among the many, I wish to especially thank the following:

Mr. Lew Davis, former State Supervisor of the Arizona Art project
Mr. Ray Vyne, Acting State Administrator, WPA for State of Arizona.

Miss Nelle C. Dunn, Arizona State Director, Division of Service Projects, WPA.

Mr. Holger Cahill, National Director of WPA Art Projects, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Clement Haupers, Art Consultant, WPA, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Mildred T. Law, Director, Division of Program Operations, WPA, Washington, D. C.

Miss Mildred Holzhauer, Allocation Unit, WPA, Chicago, Illinois.
Mr. W. J. Trent, Jr., of the Federal Works Agency Inter-racial Relations Staff, Washington, D. C.

Lt. Col. C. F. E. Nelson, Chief of Special Services, Fort Huachuca.
Lt. Col. M. O. Bousfield, Commanding Officer, Station Hospital No. 1, Fort Huachuca.

Our efforts have resulted in one of the largest collections of works by Negro artists that have ever been assembled in this country. The collection includes 88 pieces and represents the works of 37 artists from 9 different states, namely: Ohio, New York, Delaware, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Illinois, California, and Massachusetts.

This collection of art will be exhibited as follows:

Mountainview Club - May 16 to 22 inclusive.

Service Club No. 1 - May 23 to 29 inclusive.

Service Club No. 2 - May 30 to June 5 inclusive.

After these exhibits, Mr. Lew Davis has kindly consented to arrange the works of art in the Mountainview Club, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where they will find their permanent home.

This program will not only solve our original desire to attractively decorate the Club, but will serve a much broader and deeper purpose. It will provide an opportunity for every officer, soldier and civilian at this station to study this unique collection of American Negro Art. This collection will not only be a worthy cause of pride in the accomplishment and promise of Negro artists, but will serve as an inspiration to all of us as representing one of the steps in the development of a broader and better American citizenship.

EDWIN N. HARDY,
Colonel, Cavalry,
Commanding.

Program

DEDICATION - SUNDAY - MAY 16, 1943
2:00 to 4:00 P. M.

Invocation	Chaplain Grant Reynolds
Music	Pvt. Harold E. Brown and Orchestra
Colonel Edwin N. Hardy	Post Commander
Address of Welcome	
Hale Woodruff	Painter
"Art in Wartime"	
Music	S. S. U. 17 Quartette
Vernon Winslow	Designer
"The Negro in Art"	
Dean Olaf A. Anderson	U. of Arizona College of Fine Arts
"Art and the Future"	
Richmond Barthe	Sculptor
"Public Sponsorship of Art"	
Music	S. Sgt. Whisonant - Songs
Colonel Edwin N. Hardy	Post Commander
Presentation of Collection	
Lt. Col. M. O. Bousfield	Governor Officers Club
Acceptance of Art Collection	
Music	S. Sgt. Whisonant, Leader
God Bless America	
Benediction	Louis J. Beasley, Chaplain 92d Division
Lt. Colonel C. F. E. Nelson	
Master of Ceremonies	

OILS

1 Henry Avery	Girl with Peaches
2 Henry Avery	Big Apple
3 William Carter	South Side Alley
4 Eldzier Cortor	Adjustment
5 Eldzier Cortor	She Didn't Forget
6 Allen Crite	Shawmut Avenue
7 Charles Davis	Benediction
8 Charles Davis	Newsboy
9 P. Dillard	Aviator
10 Walter Ellison	The Story Book
11 Edward Loper	McCauley Street
12 John C. Lutz	Early Snow
13 Lonnie Moore	After School
14 Archibald Motley	Carnival
15 Archibald Motley	Arrival of the Slaves
16 Charles Sebree	Portrait of a Man
17 Charles Sebree	Sunflowers
18 Charles Davis	Johnny Mae Sewing
19 Humbert Howard	The Gardner's House
20 Elba Lightfoot	Mural Panel
21 Archibald Motley	The Plotters
22 Earl Walker	Cornerstone
23 J. Vavak	At Work
24 A. Troy	Salt Works
25 Stuart Bruce	Man Shoveling
26 Eldzier Cortor	Still Life Figure
27 Theodore Gillien	Blues in Flood Time
28 Frank Neal	Girl in Yellow Hat
29 Samuel Brown	Portrait Study
30 Samuel Brown	Child Smiling
31 Samuel Brown	Writing Lesson
32 Dox Thrash	While Philly Sleeps
33 Dox Thrash	Work at Last
34 Samuel Brown	Child Reading
35 William Carter	Landscape
36 Dox Thrash	Landscape

- 37 Felix Gaines Mural Sketch No. 1
38 Felix Gaines Mural Sketch No. 2

PRINTS AND DRAWINGS

- 39 Ralph Chessi Family Group
40 Eldzier Cortor The Task
41 Eldzier Cortor Study No. 10
42 Eldzier Cortor Study No. 11
43 Paul Laessle Night Goings On
44 Edward Malnate Tobacco Row
45 Raymond Steth Evolution of Swing
46 Dox Thrash Portrait of R. W.
47 Walter Ellison Monotype
48 Knute Holdner The Flood
49 Charles Sallee Used Cars
50 Dox Thrash Life
51 Lawrence Jones St. Louis Cathedral
52 Lawrence Jones Wagon
53 Bernard Schardt Girl Serving
54 Raymond Steth Recreation
55 Dox Thrash Happy Journey
56 Dox Thrash Ebony Joe
57 Dox Thrash Octoroon
58 Samuel Brown Abstract
59 Samuel Brown Writing Lesson
60 Claude Clark Jumpin' Jive
61 Claude Clark Boogie - Woogie
62 Claude Clark Hills
63 Claude Clark Time Out
64 Bryant Pringle Arc Welder
65 Charles Sallee Bertha
66 Charles Sallee The Post Setters
67 Charles Sallee Swingtime
68 Raymond Steth Reggie
69 Raymond Steth Sidewalk Quintet
70 Raymond Steth Debris
71 Raymond Steth Despair

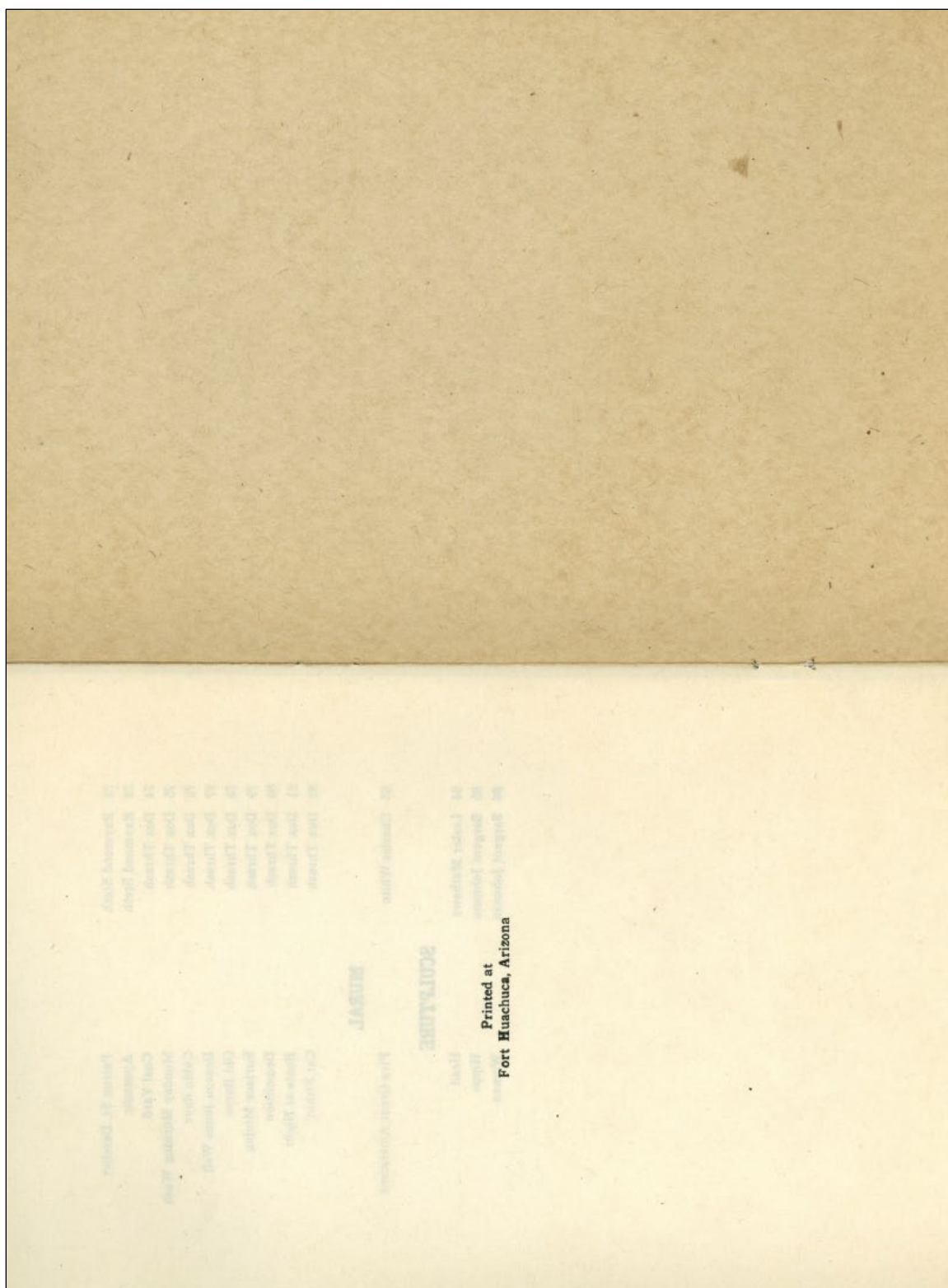
- 72 Raymond Steth Patron St. Derelict
73 Raymond Steth Apostolic
74 Dox Thrash Coal Yard
75 Dox Thrash Monday Morning Wash
76 Dox Thrash Cabin days
77 Dox Thrash Deacon Jones Well
78 Dox Thrash Old Barns
79 Dox Thrash Surface Mining
80 Dox Thrash Demolition
81 Dox Thrash Boats at Night
82 Dox Thrash Cat Fishin'

MURAL

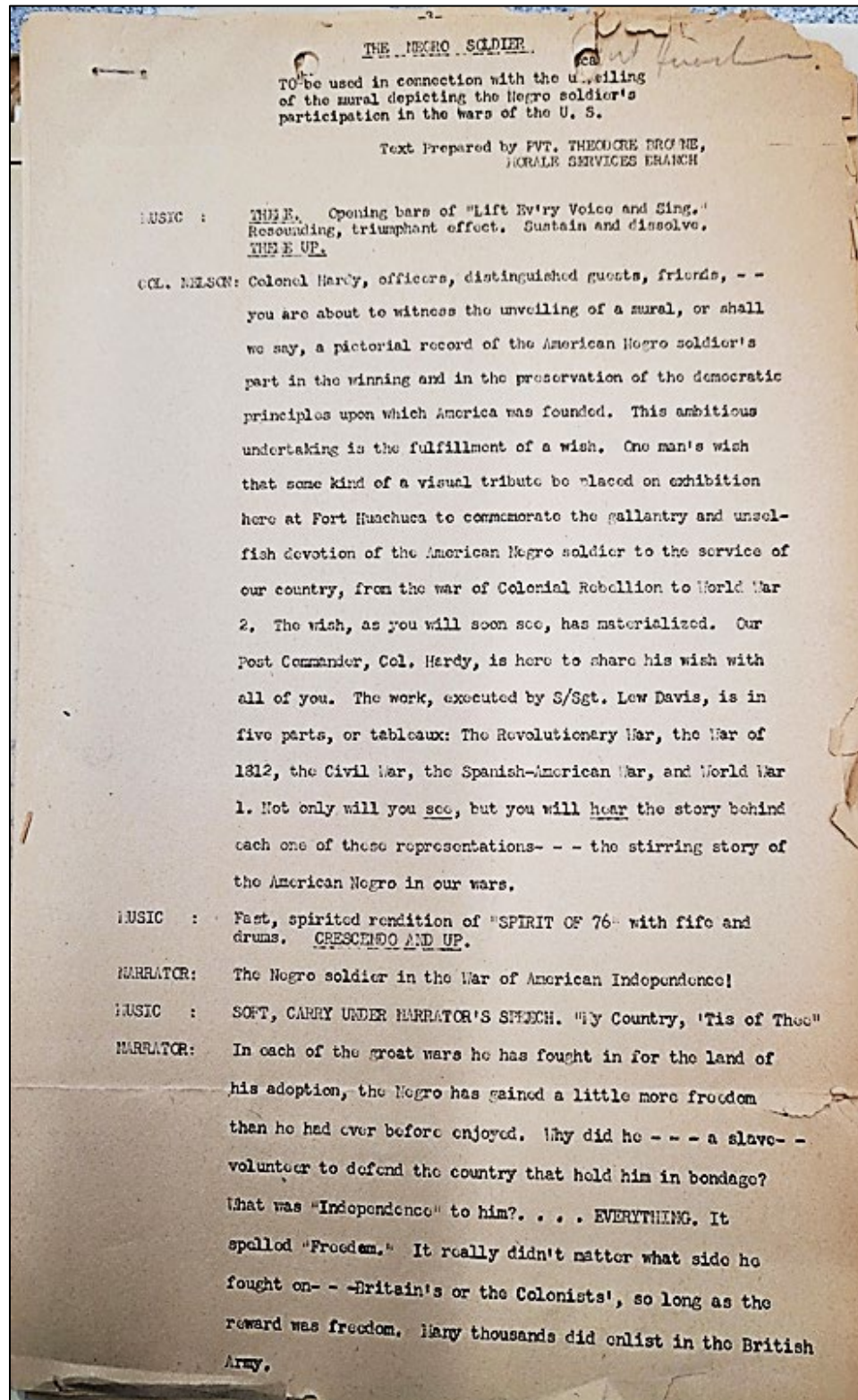
- 83 Charles White Five Great Americans

SCULPTURE

- 84 Lester Mathews Head
85 Sargent Johnson Hippo
86 Sargent Johnson Woman



Appendix C: Script for the Unveiling of Davis's Mural, *The Negro in America's Wars*



MUSIC UP.

MUSIC : Fanfare, roll of drums. Hold under.

NARRATOR: In 1779, Sir Henry Clinton proclaimed---

VOICE : (British accent) His Majesty's government desires the military service of every able-bodied Negro male. To every Negro who will desert the Rebel Standard, His Majesty's government will grant him the security to follow within the British lines any occupation which he might think proper.

ROLL OF DRUMS UP.

NARRATOR : But the colonists persisted in their objection to the use of Negro soldiers, as incompatible with the principles for which they were fighting. "That all men were created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" did not apply to Negroes---neither freedmen nor slaves. So, Negroes continued to swell the ranks of the British armies.

1ST VOICE : Between 1775 and 1783, the state of South Carolina lost 25,000 Negroes who went over to the British.

2D VOICE : Three-fourths of all Negroes in Georgia were lost to the Americans.

3D VOICE : One-third of the British soldiers garrisoned at Fort Cornwallis were Negroes.

NARRATOR : General George Washington, who had sternly prohibited the enlistment of Negroes, now filled his depleted ranks at Valley Forge with a battalion of black men. By giving three years of service to the Continental Army, the slave was in turn given his freedom. Maryland raised a contingent of 750 men of color. Crispus Attucks, a man of Negro descent, a giant in stature, who had seen service on a whaling ship, was one of the first martyrs of American liberty. He was in the front of those openly protesting against the quartering and billeting of British soldiers in Boston.

MUSIC : SPRIGHTLY TUNE OF "YANKEE DOODLE." CARRY UNDER.

NARRATOR: Other Crispus Attucks served as Minute Men at Lexington and Concord and later as Regulars in the ranks. A young Negro woman named Deborah Shurtleff, masqueraded as a man and enlisted, and saw three years of military service. Peter Salem distinguished himself at Bunker Hill by killing

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the celebrated British Officer, Major Pakenham. Another Negro soldier captured a Major General of the British Army. In every colony from Massachusetts to Georgia, as brave as the bravest during those long bitter years, Negroes fought and died by the side of Warren of Bunker Hill, Pulaski at Savannah.

MUSIC : CLIMAX AND UP.

NARRATOR: (A PAUSE) The first panel to be unveiled depicts a scene from the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, which occurred on the 26th day of June, the year 1776. Of this battle, the historian Bancroft wrote:

MUSIC : SOFTLY "MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE." HOLD UNDER.

VOICE : "Nor may history omit to record that of the Revolutionary patriots who on that day offered their lives for their country more than 700 black men fought side by side with the white."

UNVEILING OF PANEL #1---LIGHT CUE---DISPLAY FOR TWO MINUTES.

MUSIC : CLIMAX. DISSOLVE AND FADE OUT PICTURE.

NARRATOR: (A PAUSE) What did he gain for himself---this Negro soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War? They first made him a free man and they apprenticed him to a trade, and he was permitted to follow in the higher pursuits of labor, and develop among his own kind a class of small independent farmers and tradesmen. That was something. THAT was a step forward---a mighty step forward for these sons of Africa only recently transplanted upon the shores of this brave new continent.

MUSIC : STIRRING INTRODUCTION TO "LA MARSEILLES." DISSOLVE AND CARRY UNDER.

NARRATOR: La Marseilles---the battle-cry of the French Revolution---was now re-echoed in America, as once again America recalled the gallantry of her Negro soldiers. This was the year 1812, when faced with the necessity of gathering any and every resource he could master to drive the British out of the French settlement of New Orleans. Andrew Jackson---"Old Hickory"---made this dramatic appeal to the Negro Americans along the shores of Mobile:

JACKSON : "Through a mistaken policy, you have heretofore been deprived of a participation in the glorious struggle for national rights in which our country is engaged. This no longer exists. As sons of freedom, you are now called upon to defend our most inestimable blessing. As Americans, as fathers, husbands, and brothers, you are summoned to rally around the standard of the Eagle, to defend all which is dear in existence".

NARRATOR: And to every noble-hearted, generous freeman of color volunteer-
 ing to serve was paid the same bounty in money and lands the
 white soldiers received-- (\$124.00 and 160 acres of land. When
 the Battle of New Orleans had been successfully fought, Andy
 Jackson could say:

MUSIC: ABRUPTLY HALTED.

A. JACKSON: To the men of color. Soldiers! from the shores of Mobile, I collected you to arms, I invited you to share in the perils and to divide the glory of your white countrymen.

MUSIC: Sneak in and under softly the closing bars of "La Marseillaise."

UNWRILING OF PANEL # 2 AS JACKSON CONTINUES ADDRESS—
LIGHT CUE. HOLD FOCUS ON PICTURE UNTIL CLOSE OF SPEECH.

A. JACKSON: (Continuous) I expected much from you. I knew that you could endure hunger and thirst, and all the hardships of war. But you surpass my hopes, I have found in you that noble enthusiasm which impels to great deeds, for you have defended all that is most dear to man--CUE FOR MUSIC SELL. -- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!

MUSIC: Crescendo and Up. A pause.

CHORUS: Singing "John Brown's Body."

VERSE : John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave
 " " " " " " " "
 " " " " " " " "
 His truth goes marching on!

REFRAIN: Glory, glory, hallelujah
 " " "
 " " " SOFTLY FADE.
His truth goes marching on.

SINGING UP:

SOUND: CROWD EFFECT, CHEERING LOUDLY, THEN SOFTENING AS VOICE OF FRED DOUGLAS IS HEARD.

DOUGLAS: (FADE IN) "The choice is now given to end in a day the bondage of centuries, and to rise in one bound from social degradation to the plane of common equality with all other varieties of men. Remember, that in a contest with oppression--"

NARRATOR: (ON MIKE) (HE SPEAKS OVER THE MONOTONE OF DOUGLAS' VOICE)
 Fred Douglas, ex-slave and spokesman for the Negro people, is delivering his great "Men of Color, to Arms" speech before a huge crowd of Negroes and white Abolitionists gathered on Boston Common before the State House. (FADE OUT - FADE IN)

DOUGLAS: (ON MIKE, CONTINUING) "----the Almighty has no attribute which can take sides with oppressors. The case is before you. This is your golden opportunity. Let us accept it, and forever wipe out the dark reproaches unsparingly hurled against us by our enemies. Let us win for ourselves the gratitude of our country and the blessings of our posterity through all time."

SOUND: CHEERING CROWD EFFECT

MUSIC: GUELL WITH CHORUS SINGING "JOHN BROWN'S BODY"

SOUND EFFECT UP. MUSIC HELD UNDER, SOFTLY.

NARRATOR: On Boston Common-----opposite the spot where Douglas stood and issued his memorable "Call to Arms"----stands a monument in bronze, erected to commemorate to the heroism and patriotism of Col. Robert Gould Shaw and his black regiment, the 54th Massachusetts. There, day and night, through summer and winter, storm and shine, are to march forever those brave heroes of the Civil War by the side of their gallant young leader. Into the unknown, they are hurrying to front and to fight their enemies and the enemies of their country. The spirit and magic of Harriet Tubman, who served her country and the 54th Massachusetts as nurse, scout, and spy and was called the "Moses" of her people---her liberty-loving spirit and her words cry out to them---

HARRIET
 TUBMAN:

I tell you, my children, they's a-saying that the colored man won't fight, and that he's a-going to run soon as the first shot is fired from yonder Fort Wagner. The eyes of the whole world is on you boys. Let's march on that Fort, let's tear down that flag, and let's put up the Stars and Stripes of the UNION!

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NARRATOR : And, they did what Harriet Tubman exhorted them to do. The flag-bearer, though struck down, in the first assault on the Confederate Fort, never let his flag touch the ground. He clung to it, holding it high above his wounded body, till the flag was wrenched from his grasp by another and raised atop the Fort. ---Nearly 200,000 colored boys in blue left their blood and their bones in every state from Virginia to Louisiana. For the Union they fought at Fort Hudson, Petersburg, Honey Hill, Clustee, Milliken's Bend and FORT WAGNER.---

UNVEILING OF PANEL #2. LIGHT CUE.

NARRATOR: As on Boston Common, so have we here a monument to these men of the 54th Massachusetts. A high courage looks from their grim faces, lives in the charged motion of their bodies, flashes from the barrels of their guns. On, and yet, over on they charge, grim bolts of war, pressing forward into the unknown, to Fort Wagner, and beyond, to immortal deeds, to death and an immortal crown!

MUSIC : SWELL AND UP... FADE OUT PANEL.

NARRATOR: (A PAUSE) What he gained from his participation in the War Between the States surpassed all preceding gains. The Negro Soldier won not alone a personal freedom, but a freedom for the entire Afro-American minority. The next time he was called on to fight, the Negro threw in his lot with his benefactors, and went to Cuba to free the Cubans from the yoke of Spain. He had no stake in this war other than to show that he was a patriotic American, and that, right or wrong, he was with his country one-hundred percent.

MUSIC : BRASSY RENDITION OF "THERE'LL BE A HOT TIE IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT". SWELL AND CARRY UNDER.

NARRATOR: So, he marched on to Cuba with the 24th Infantry, the 25th, the 9th Cavalry, and the 10th Cavalry. There were volunteers from Massachusetts, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. On July 1, 1898, in an attack at EL CANEY, a mile and a half from Santiago, the gallant work, the lusty, hellish fighting of the men of the 10th Cavalry helped save the day for Colonel Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

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UNVEILING OF PANEL 3 A LIGHT CUR.

NARRATOR: Said the magazine "The Review of Reviews" in October, 1898:

VOICE : "One of the most gratifying incidents of the Spanish War has been the enthusiasm that the colored regiments of the regular Army have aroused throughout the whole country. Their fighting at Santiago was magnificent. Roosevelt's Rough Riders have come back singing the praises of the colored troops."

MUSIC: SMELL AND UP.

FADE OUT PANEL.

NARRATOR: Indeed, it was glory they gained in 1898 at El Caney and Santiago de Cuba in the Spanish-American War. With the spirit of Antonio Maceo, dark-skinned Cuban martyr, these Negro-Americans helped drive out the Spanish oppressors and make Cuba free and independent.

MUSIC: BRIDGE HEADLY: (1) "CAKE WALK" (2) "GOOD-BYE BROADWAY, HELLO FRANCE"
 (3) "GOOD-BYE ALEXANDER, GOOD-BYE HOMERIDOT"

SOUND : BREAK OFF INTO CAUTIONING EFFECT.....HEAVY, AGITATED AND FOREBODING WAR.

MUSIC: DISCORDANT STRAINS OF "OVER THERE". CARRY UNDER NARRATOR'S SPEECH.

NARRATOR: They were back again. This time, it wasn't just America's war. The whole civilized world was in flames.. A German Kaiser had wantonly plunged the world into a blood bath. The cry went up in America, "DESTROY GERMANY AND MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY!" So urgent was the need for black men to fight that America didn't wait for volunteers. Negroes along with the whites, were drafted. Into the jaws of hell, black men marched, fighting like demons in the Argonne forest, the Vosges mountains, in St. Mihiel, Champagne, Metz. The 369th---formerly the New York National Guard ---was under shell fire for 191 days without relief. They were the first unit of the Allies to reach the Rhine. They went down as an advance guard of the French Army of Occupation. Two of their men, HENRY JOHNSON and HERBHAM ROBERTS, were the first men in the ranks of all the American Expeditionary Forces to receive the Croix de Guerre. Johnson and Roberts were credited with

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the capture of 20 Germans who raided the post at which they were stationed. The entire regiment of the 369th were cited for valor and decorated with the Croix de Guerre.

MUSIC: SILENCE "OVER THERE"

UNVEILING OF PANEL # 5. LIGHT CUE. HOLD FOR SEVERAL SECONDS
WHILE BAND PLAYS. MUSIC UP.

CUE FOR LIGHTING ENTIRE LURAL

CHORUS: SINGING OF THEM "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING". RESILIENT,
THEN SOOTHEED, AS NARRATOR SPEAKS.

NARRATOR: It was a proud---a justly proud---Negro-American and World
Citizen that emerged from World War I. He had grown into
a larger world consciousness. He had fought and died for
a universal principle. He had been a determining factor
in a great world crisis. Had he not given as much for
his country as any other American, or Britisher, or French-
man? He had earned his glory and no earthly power could
take that away from him. (A PAUSE) TODAY, BLACK SOLDIERS
ARE AGAIN MARCHING THROUGH AN ENEMY LAND AT THE SUMMONS OF
DUTY, FACE TO FACE WITH GREAT LABORS, GREAT DANGERS IN THE
SWAMP AND JUNGLES OF NEW GUINEA, THROUGH MARSHES AND ALONG
THE HEDGEROWS OF NORMANDY, AND THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN OF
NORTHERN ITALY, TO FIGHT AGAIN, ALONG WITH FREEDOM-LOVING
MEN OF ALL RACES AND CREEDS, THE FORCES OF EVIL---TO SLAY
DOWN THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE---AND, WITH GOD'S
UNFAILING HELP, THEY WILL CONQUER AND HELP ALLIGHTY GOD
RAISE UP A NEW NATION---TO BUILD ON A CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION
OF EQUALITY AND SOLIDITY OF ALL MEN IN GOD.

CHORUS: SILENCE "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" FOLLOW INTO:
"STOUT-HEARTED MEN" AND "STAR-SPANLED BANNER" WITH CHORUS
AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATING.

THE END

Abbreviations

AAREG	African American Registry
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CERL	Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
CMOS	Chicago Manual of Style
CWA	Civil Works Administration
ERDC	Engineer Research and Development Center
FAP	Federal Arts Project
GSA	General Services Administration
MILCON	Military Construction
MVOC	Mountain View Officers' Club
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OMA	Operation and Maintenance Army
PWAP	Public Works of Art Project
SAIC	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
SRM	Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization
SSCAC	South Side Community Art Center
WPA	Works Progress Administration (1935–1939) <i>and</i> Works Projects Administration (1939–1943)

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5d. PROJECT NUMBER 473343		5e. TASK NUMBER		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
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14. ABSTRACT The 1943 art exhibition at the Mountain View Officers' Club (MVOC), Fort Huachuca, Arizona should be considered one of the most significant events in the intersection of American art, military history, and segregation. Organizers of the event, entitled Exhibition of the Work of 37 Negro Artists, anticipated it would boost soldiers' morale because Fort Huachuca was a predominately Black duty station during WWII. This report provides a brief history of Black art in the early 20th century, biographies of the artists showcased, and provides information (where known) about repositories that have originals or reproductions of the art today. The following is recommended: the General Services Administration (GSA) investigate the ownership of the pieces described in this report and if they are found to have been created under one of the New Deal art programs to add them to their inventory, further investigation be performed on the provenance and ownership of Lew Davis's The Negro in America's Wars mural, for the rehabilitation of the MVOC that the consulting parties agree upon the scope of the reproduction of the art, and request archival full reproductions of the pieces of art found in the collection of the Howard University Gallery of Art.					
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