

Harn Museum of Art Brings Works by Influential American Artist Jacob Lawrence to Gainesville

GAINESVILLE, FL, Feb. 6, 2018—*History, Labor, Life: The Prints of Jacob Lawrence* will be on view at the Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida from Feb. 13 to Aug. 5, 2018. This traveling exhibition provides a comprehensive overview of influential American artist Jacob Lawrence's (1917–2000) printmaking oeuvre, featuring more than 90 works produced from 1963 to 2000. The exhibition explores three major themes that occupied the artist's graphic works.

Lawrence started exploring printmaking as an already well-established artist. Printmaking suited his bold formal and narrative style exceptionally well. The relationship between his painting and printmaking is intertwined, with the artist revisiting and remaking earlier paintings as prints. The inherent multiplicity of this medium provided an opportunity for the artist to reach broader audiences.

Lawrence was primarily concerned with the narration of African-American experiences and histories. His acute observations of community life, work, struggle and emancipation during his lifetime were rendered alongside vividly imagined chronicles of the past. The past and present in his practice are intrinsically linked, providing insight into the social, economic and political realities that continue to impact and shape contemporary society today.

"We are fortunate for the opportunity to bring this exhibition of Lawrence's prints to the University of Florida campus and Gainesville community," said Harn Director Rebecca Nagy. "Visitors will be able to engage with the works of art and themes they address through multiple programs including a Community Kickoff event on Feb. 24."

History, Labor, Life: The Prints of Jacob Lawrence is organized by SCAD Museum of Art in collaboration with the Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Foundation, and is curated by Storm Janse van Rensburg, SCAD head curator of exhibitions. This exhibition is sponsored locally by Michael and Donna Singer, Jacqueline Bradley and Clarence Otis, Jr., the Harn Program Endowment, Kenneth and Laura Berns, and Visit Gainesville with additional support from friends of the Harn Museum of Art.

Admission to the museum is free. For more information, call 352-392-9826 or visit harn.ufl.edu.

Images are available upon request.

Programs

The Harn is offering a number of related programs providing an opportunity for visitors to engage in conversation and learn more about the works on view. All programs are free and open to the public.

Tours

Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

No reservations necessary. Groups of 10 or more may schedule a tour three weeks in advance by contacting tours@harn.ufl.edu.

Member pARTy

Friday, Feb. 16, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Become a Harn Member for free at harn.ufl.edu/join and celebrate the opening of the exhibition with light bites, wine and a beer garden sponsored by First Magnitude Brewing Co. There will also be an opportunity to join at the door the night of the event.

Spring Educator Workshop

Wednesday, February 21, 2 - 4:30 p.m.

“Screen Printing for the Art Classroom”

Inspired by the exhibition, K-12 Art Educators will participate in a collaborative screen printing process applicable to the classroom. Educator Workshops are free, but seating is limited. ACPS teachers will earn 3 in-service points for participation--register for Course 21058 Section 26088 in ACIIS. Non-ACPS teachers can register via email to bbreslin@harn.ufl.edu.

Community Kick-Off: The Art of Jacob Lawrence

Saturday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Celebrate the opening of the exhibition with an afternoon full of art-making activities, tours, a performance and refreshments. Visitors of all ages can explore the vibrant, colorful works by Jacob Lawrence who recorded historical events of African-American life as well as vivid observations of dynamic city life in Harlem, New York City.

Gallery Talk: Jacob Lawrence’s Visual Narratives

Saturday, Feb. 24, 3 p.m.

Following our Community Kick-Off: The Art of Jacob Lawrence, join Susan Cooksey, Curator of African Art on a tour focused on Lawrence’s visual narratives of African-American history and life. Together, explore Lawrence’s major themes of Emancipation, the Great Migration and the Civil Rights Movement.

Gallery Conversation: Learning from Lawrence

Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m.

Join Rebecca Nagy, Harn Director and Richard Heipp, UF Research Foundation Professor, School of Art and Art History in a discussion surrounding the art of Jacob Lawrence and of Heipp’s experiences as a student of Lawrence. This conversation on artistic influences and mentorship will extend into other galleries and beyond through visitor questions and a look at artists who impacted Lawrence as well as those artists inspired by his life and work to this day.

Harn Eminent Scholar Chair in Art History Lecture

Blue in Green: Viridian & Jacob Lawrence

Friday, March 30, 6 p.m., Reception to follow

Richard J. Powell, John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art and Art History, Duke University

This talk explores how Jacob Lawrence’s singular use of color--specifically the modern, blue-green color known as viridian--and his idiosyncratic forms and compositions offer a systematic entryway into his art and, in concert with his themes and subjects, a more nuanced understanding of his paintings. Established by a gift from Dr. David A. and Mary Ann Cofrin, this lecture series presents talks by outstanding art historians, critics, curators and museum professionals.

Gallery Talk: The Life and Image of Toussaint L'Ouverture

Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m.

David Geggus, UF Professor of History, will discuss the dramatic career of Toussaint L'Ouverture, the slave who became a statesman, and some of the controversies surrounding his life and public image in relation to the series *The Life of Toussaint L'Ouverture*, 15 silkscreen prints on view in the exhibition.

Family Day: Picturing Home and History

Saturday, June 9, 1 – 4 p.m.

Enjoy a guided tour of *History, Labor, Life: The Prints of Jacob Lawrence*. Learn the tools of printmaking and make a print with bold colors that tells a story. This program is ideal for families with children ages 5 – 11, but all ages are welcome.

Museum Nights: Africa Beyond the Mask

Thursday, April 12, 6 – 9 p.m.

Experience art from throughout Africa and the African diaspora with tours and activities in the exhibitions *Elusive Spirits: African Masquerades, Poetic and Political* and *History, Labor, Life: The Prints of Jacob Lawrence*. Learn more about UF's research and teaching focused on Africa. End the night with a high-energy performance of West African dance and music presented by Agbedidi. Enjoy free food on this evening. Museum Nights is an ongoing program made possible by the generous support of the University of Florida Office of the Provost and Student Government. Additional support provided by the Center for African Studies.

Museum Nights: Print Party

Thursday, July 12, 6 – 9 p.m.

Celebrate the art of printmaking and design through activities, tours and scavenger hunts. Dive into color theory and spend summer in the city through an exploration of current exhibitions, including *History, Labor, Life: The Prints of Jacob Lawrence*. Enjoy free food and music on this evening.

Theatrical Performance

Sunday, April 15, 3 p.m.

Combining real-life stories and oral history from North Central Florida around themes depicted in Jacob Lawrence's prints, such as family life, labor, migration and community, live actors will interact with audience and art in a special theatrical performance. This unique experience will enhance the exhibition by contextualizing the art and connecting it to our local history. The performance is a partnership between the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and The Actors' Warehouse Community Theatre.

About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university's system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 10,000 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit harn.ufl.edu.

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