

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion presents



Stephanie Pogue, *Jonah in the Whale*, 1972, embossed color etching, 3/20

**VISUAL EXEGESIS
RELIGIOUS IMAGES BY
AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS
FROM THE
JEAN AND ROBERT E. STEELE COLLECTION**

*this exhibition is organized by the David C. Driskell Center
at the University of Maryland, College Park*

OCTOBER 13 - DECEMBER 12, 2008

Dadian Gallery Hours:
Monday - Friday 11am to 4:30 pm
closed holidays

The Dadian Gallery
Wesley Theological Seminary
4500 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016
202.885.8674
www.luceartsandreligion.org

LIST OF WORKS

1. **Andrews, Benny** (1930-2006)
Sorrow, 1994
Offset lithograph, collage, and mixed media, A/P 1 (edition of 50)
Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Crite, Allan R.** (b. 1910)
O, Mary Where Is Your Baby?, 1991
Lithograph, 135/150, Artist's Studio
3. **Crite, Allan R.** (b. 1910)
The Nativity, c. 1950
Linoleum block print (B/W), Artist's Studio
4. **Jackson, Reginald**
The African Meeting House, 2000
Silkscreen 35/100, Artist's Studio
5. **Harris, Michael D.**
Mother and the Presence of Myth, 1997
Offset lithograph, 12/100, Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Driskell, David C.** (b. 1931)
Dancing Angel, 2002
Silkscreen, P/P 1/10, Stovall's Workshop, Inc., Washington, DC
7. **Driskell, David C.** (b. 1931)
Spirits Watching, 1986
Offset lithograph, 16/100, Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Driskell, David C.** (b. 1931)
Eve and the Apple, IV, 2006
Color etching, 18/35
Printed with Curlee Holton, Master Printmaker, Experimental
Printmaking Institute, Lafayette College, PA
9. **Driskell, David C.** (b. 1931)
African Saint, 2005
Linocut, A/P 2/15, Artist's Studio
10. **Keene, Paul** (b. 1920)
Solomon's Bride, 1980
Silkscreen, 16/30, Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
11. **Holton, Curlee R.**
The Water Spirit, 2001
Silkscreen, 2/15
Experimental Printmaking Institute, Lafayette College, Easton, PA

12. **Humphrey, Margo** (b. 1942)
Adam & Eve, 2003
Lithograph, 19/20
Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper, New Brunswick, NJ
13. **Humphrey, Margo** (b. 1942)
The Last Bar-B-Que, 1989
Lithograph, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
14. **Humphrey, Margo** (b. 1942)
Sunday Afternoon, 1988
Offset lithograph diptych, 44/60
Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
15. **Scott, John**
I Remember Birmingham, 1997
Print, 10/50, Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
16. **Biggers, John** (1924-2001)
Family Ark, 1992
Offset lithograph triptych, 72/100
Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
17. **Fortt, Annette**
Nativity, 1985
Linocut, VI 2/10
18. **Fortt, Annette**
Grandmother of the Bride, 1992
Collograph, 1/10
19. **Fortt, Annette**
The Last Supper, 1987
Linocut, 4/75
20. **Lawrence, Jacob** (1917-2000)
And God Created the Day and the Night and Put Stars in the Sky (#4 from the Creation Series), 1990
Silkscreen, 33/50
Lou Stovall Workshop, Inc. Washington, DC
21. **Pogue, Stephanie**
Jonah in the Whale, 1972
Embossed color etching, 3/20, Artist's Studio
22. **Ringgold, Faith** (b. 1930) and
Matthews, Grace
Angels Whispering in the Night, 2005
Lithograph, 19/50

About the Show

The Dadian Gallery of the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary is delighted to present *Visual Exegesis: Religious Images by African American Artists from the Jean and Robert E. Steele Collection*. The 22 works in the current show were part of a larger exhibition by the same title shown at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music earlier this year as part of an interdisciplinary conference. In the forward to the catalogue for that event, Steven Cameron Newsome, Director of the Prince George's Arts Council, Maryland and Founding Director of the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center of North Brentwood, Maryland, writes

"Jean and Robert Steele have thoughtfully assembled a diverse visual chorus of African American praise songs, hymns, and shouts. Each piece has the power to cause the viewer to pause, reflect, and indeed pray... . *Visual Exegesis* provides an important opportunity for increased understanding of African American art forms. . . [creating] a unique safe and sacred space in which the African American identified and defined visions of divinity can be explored, expressed and celebrated."

Rather than presenting a unified voice, the works in this exhibition suggest a conversation in which the questions of faith and identity are asked and answered in many registers, ranging from wry irony and sadness to profound hope and delight. The fourteen artists represented in this exhibition include such well-known names as Jacob Lawrence, Allan Rohan Crite, Faith Ringgold, and David Driskell. Others, including Benny Andrews, John Biggers, Annette Fortt, Michael Harris, Curlee Holton, Margo Humphrey, Reginald Jackson, Paul Keene, Stephanie Pogue, and John Scott, may not be as familiar to many, but their works are equally powerful.

This exhibition is organized by the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland, College Park. It is made possible through the support of a special fund from the Office of the president, University of Maryland; the Yale University's Middle Passage Conversations on Black Religion in the African Diaspora; and major support from the Maryland State Arts Council.

Deborah Sokolove
Curator, Dadian Gallery

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion is a program of Wesley Theological Seminary. The Center sponsors a variety of cultural events which explore the intersection of art and faith.
All contributions are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted