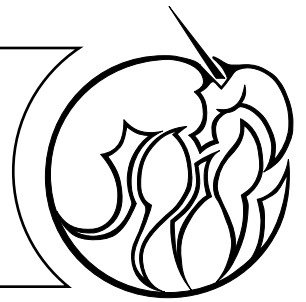


{ the avant-garde }

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design



PERIODIC JOURNAL VOLUME XVI No.2 FEBRUARY 2024

by Katherine N. Crowley

Each year, in celebration of Black History Month, the February issue of *The Avant-Garde* is dedicated to the celebration of black artists and their contributions to the cultural landscape of humanity. Drawn to the city by three exhibits that overlapped for only two weekends, my husband and I visited Chicago over Labor Day weekend.

black {art} history month

Two of the exhibits were dedicated to artist Nick Cave, who was mounting a career retrospective at the Museum of Contemporary Art. To celebrate the exhibit, titled *Foroftermore*, he collaborated with his brother Jack Cave to create a fashion collection which was premiered in a fashion show, and then exhibited at the Roundhouse of The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center in an exhibit titled *The Color Is*. This was our first visit to the DuSable, which is a Smithsonian Affiliate.



{the du sable black history museum and education center}



In 1961, with a few dedicated colleagues and a dream, the artist/educator/writer/activist Margaret Taylor Burroughs established our nation's first independent museum celebrating Black culture. The Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art was inaugurated that very year in the Burroughs' home on Chicago's iconic South Side. Burroughs was proud that the Museum was "the only one that grew out of the indigenous Black community." At its 60th anniversary, the Museum—since named to honor Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the Haitian-born founder of Chicago—has welcomed millions of visitors to its home in Chicago's historic Washington Park to experience its innovative and timely exhibitions and powerful and transformative educational programs, which together place the African American narrative firmly within the broader context of U.S. history. The DuSable is a convener; a point of connection; and a place where difficult conversations lead to reconciliation and renewal. And, as a beacon of strength and a refuge of reason, the Museum is a vital part of a socially equitable reconciliation of our nation's historic divisions.

Above left: Mosaic of Margaret Taylor Burroughs by Thomas Miller. Photograph by Matthew Anderle. Above center: The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center. Photograph and text courtesy of The DuSable Museum. Source: <https://www.dusablemuseum.org/>

{thomas miller points to history with du sable museum mosaics}

By Emily Rosca, March 20, 2020

In the lobby of Hyde Park’s DuSable Museum of African American History, intricate mosaics created by Thomas Miller, the late African American artist and graphic designer, offer up slices of Chicago history.

Built on three slabs of plywood, a portrait of Harold Washington — the city’s first black mayor — is framed by the city’s skyline. Also part of the piece: the Picasso, sailboats on Lake Michigan and kids playing basketball. “He really wanted to think hard about what exemplified Chicago and to give a feel for Harold Washington’s part in it,”

Miller’s daughter Joyce Miller-Bean says of the mosaics. “Nothing says Chicago like our skyline.” Across the lobby, fashioned in a similar manner, is an image of Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the city’s first permanent settler.

Portraits of eight of the museum’s 10 founders, including Margaret Taylor-Burroughs, occupy each corner of the room. “He wasn’t just hoping to capture their personalities but also how these people, as African Americans, fit into the tapestry of our culture,” Miller-Bean says. Taylor-Burroughs, a Miller family friend, enlisted the artist first for the portrait of Washington for the museum. The others followed.

Miller’s mosaics, created at his home studio in Beverly, were installed in 1977. Mosaics typically are made with glass. But Miller, 89 when he died in 2012, used painted plastic chips, thousands of them, repurposing pieces that originally had been used to diffuse fluorescent lighting and as part of grid wall panels.

“Dad liked to do things a little differently.”



{permanent art collection at the du sable museum}



More than 40 years after their installation, the DuSable mosaics remain part of the museum's permanent collection. They've held up well, says Karen Ami, founder and executive director of the Chicago Mosaic School, especially given the nontraditional materials.

Perhaps most well-known for his redesign of the 7Up logo and the design of Motorola's batwing "M," Miller worked for the famed design firm Morton Goldsholl Associates for about 35 years. A grandson of slaves and himself a decorated World War II veteran, the designer was one of few African Americans working for an elite design firm at the time.

He grew up wanting to be an artist. Miller-Bean says her father "lived and breathed" art. After retiring from Morton Goldsholl, Miller moved full-time into doing his own art, including mosaics, paintings and monoprints. Monoprinting — a type of printmaking in which images are made just once — was his favorite medium.

While honing his mosaic-making craft, Miller would enlist his family to help. Miller-Bean remembers clipping Venetian blinds along with her mother and brother that Miller would later paint and use to create mosaics.

"He felt that art — not just his — was one of the best mediums for reaching people soul to soul, heart to heart," Miller-Bean says.

Photographs by Katherine Crowley & Matthew Anderle

Source: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/murals-mosaics/2020/3/20/21161877/murals-chicago-thomas-miller-dusable-museum-african-american-history-harold-washington>

{select exhibits at the dusable museum}

"The Du" offers a variety of traditional exhibits, as well as some interactive concepts involving virtual reality, film, and social media integration to give visitors a dynamic experience. The museum also participates in [Bloomberg Connects](#), a free app that offers a digital guide that takes you behind the scenes with exclusive multimedia perspectives from artists, curators, and more.



[Clearing A Path For Democracy: Citizen Soldiers of the Illinois Fighting 8th](#)

Citizen soldiers have served their nation, their states, and their communities throughout American history. National guardsmen are the quintessential citizen soldiers, and the men of the 8th Infantry Illinois National Guard demonstrated the best qualities of this segment of American society.

[THE MARCH](#)

In 2020, TIME and executive producer Viola Davis invite you to experience THE MARCH, a groundbreaking immersive exhibit that re-creates one of the most iconic moments in American history, the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Become one of the 250,000-plus people who came to participate that day—and witness firsthand as Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech—in a genre-pushing virtual reality experience that draws on the personal stories of organizers and demonstrators who were there. TIME has reimagined Dr. King's iconic 'I Have A Dream' speech for the present moment. The video features a selection of noteworthy individuals and activists reading sections of the speech, underscoring the parallels between the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's and the global non-violent demonstrations of today.



[Equiano.stories](#)

What if an African child in 1756 had Instagram when he was enslaved?

Equiano.stories reimagines the historic childhood saga of Olaudah Equiano. The epic story is captured as a self-recorded, first-person account, within the format of Instagram Stories, using video, still images, and text. Equiano.stories presents the early life of one of the most dynamic figures in history, through modern technology that enables global viewing, via social media. The film focuses on the heart and soul of Equiano's family and community in the Igboland village of Essaka, then moves through the disruption resulting from the violent kidnapping that trapped him in chattel slavery. This true story reveals the strength, tenacity, and resistance of African people during the Middle Passage, captured on a ship, headed to the New World. Equiano is our origin story which does not begin in enslavement. It begins in FREEDOM.

[Troubled Waters: Chicago 1919 Race Riot](#)

Chicago 1919 Race Riot focuses on the historical moment that led to the murder of Eugene Williams on July 27, 1919 and the eight-day aftermath of violence that altered the city forever.



{african american art museums in the u.s.}



The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York

Founded fifty years ago to champion, empower, and celebrate artists of African descent, the Studio Museum, Harlem brings together work that has been inspired and influenced by Black culture, serving as a site for the dynamic exchange of ideas about art and society. Recognized as one of the most important public collections of works by Black artists, the permanent collection represents more than 700 artists, spans 200 years of history and includes over 2,500 works of art, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, watercolors, photographs, videos and mixed-media installations. Among them are works by Dawoud Bey, Jacob Lawrence, Sam Gilliam, Seydou Keita, Kara Walker, Romare Bearden, David Hammons and Kerry James Marshall. The Studio Museum in Harlem also has the Artist-in-Residence program that has supported over one hundred artists early in their careers.

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African- American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African- American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, NC was founded with an idea to provide the public with access to African-American culture through a broad range of exhibitions, presentations in the performing arts, innovative educational programs and a link between the greater Charlotte community and the University of North Carolina. Founded in 1974 as the Afro-American Cultural Center, it was open under this name in 2009 to honor Harvey Bernard Gantt, a well-respected community leader and businessman. The highlight of the permanent collection is the Hewitt Collection of African American Art, an assemblage of fifty-eight works celebrating the expression and passion of twenty master artists, including Romare Bearden, Hale Woodruff, Jonathan Green, Ann Tanksley, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Catlett, and Henry Ossawa Tanner.



The African American Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The museum presents exhibitions covering three dominant themes - the African Diaspora, the Philadelphia Story, and the Contemporary Narrative, bringing diverse communities together in greater appreciation of the Black experience through the combined narrative of art, culture and historical witness. The highlight of their collection is the Jack T. Franklin Collection, featuring over 500,000 negatives and photographs that cover virtually every social, cultural and political event in Philadelphia's African American community during Franklin's lifetime, as well as all of the major events of the 1960s Civil Rights movement.

The California African American Museum, Los Angeles, California

Their permanent collection houses 4,000 objects that span landscape painting and portraiture, modern and contemporary art, historical objects and print materials, and mixed-media artworks from the African diaspora and by African Americans from across the United States. The collection places a special focus on works pertinent to California and the American West. Through their programming, they support the work of under-represented artists of color, encouraging conversations about the way African American artists have contributed to American culture and the world at large.



{the avant-garde}

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design




FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE
OF DUBLIN



{copa at friendship village}

Curator: Bill Westerman

Central Ohio Plein Air presents
a collection of landscapes and portraits

February 13 – March 12

Join us for the Artists Reception:
Monday, February 19th at 3:00 pm

When the weather cools, members of COPA retreat indoors. This season we have been invited by Friendship Village of Dublin to paint portraits of residents and staff. This exhibit is a collection of artwork created by our members from the 2023-2024 season.

<https://www.centralohiopleinair.com/>



 PRISCILLA R. TYSON
CULTURAL
ARTS CENTER

CONVERSATIONS & COFFEE
presents

KATHERINE CROWLEY

**Oil Color, Bronze Sculpture &
Mixed Media Artist**

Join Katherine Crowley for a presentation of her art career and artwork in various media

March 21st 12:00 – 1:00pm

Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center
139 West Main Street
Columbus, OH 43215

<https://www.culturalartscenteronline.org/programs/conversations-coffee/>

Meter and pay lot parking available



{all around the town}

The Columbus Cultural Arts Center (<http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org>)
 "On Her Shoulders: A Celebration of Women" MAIN GALLERY
 Through February 24
 "Pattern, Play - Artist in Residence Max Adrian" LOFT GALLERY
 Through February 27

The Columbus Museum of Art (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>)
 "New Encounters: Reframing the Contemporary Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art", Ongoing
 "I would like to be midnight/I would like to be Sky", Through February 26

COSI (<http://www.cosi.org>)
 "Creatures of Light: Nature's Bioluminescence", Through March 10

The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio (<http://www.decartsOhio.org/>)
 "From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community", Through April 28

Dublin Arts Council (<http://www.dublinarts.org>)
 "Emerging 2024 Student Exhibition", Through February 29

The High Road Gallery and Studios (<http://www.highroadgallery.com>)
 "Real and Imagined: The Photography of Robert Graham & Mark Steele
 Featuring 3D Art by Delia Smith", Through March 2

The King Arts Complex (<https://kingartscomplex.com>)
 "Aminah Day", February 18, 8:30am-4:30pm

McConnell Arts Center (<http://www.mcconnellarts.org>)
 "April Sunami - I Am Because You/We Are", Through March 13

Ohio Craft Museum (<https://ohiocraft.org>)
 "Traversing Textiles", February 11-March 30

OSU Urban Arts Space (<http://www.uas.osu.edu>)
 "Sun Spell: MFA Thesis Exhibit", February 13-March 16

Pizzuti Collection (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>)
 "Alison Saar's Nocturne Navigator", Ongoing

The Riffe Gallery (<https://oac.ohio.gov/riffe-gallery>)
 "In Touch", Through April 5, 2024

The Wexner Center (<http://www.wexarts.org>)
 "Sarah Maldoror: Tricontinental Cinema", Through April 28
 "Mónica de Miranda", Through April 30
 "Outpost Office", Through July 1

{performing arts}

BalletMet (<https://www.balletmet.org>)
 "Asian Voices", March 15-23, Davidson Theater

CAPA (<https://www.capa.com>)
 "Mamma Mia", March 12-17, Ohio Theater
 "Travis Tritt Solo Acoustic Tour", March 14, Palace Theater
 "Jazz Arts Group: And All That Jazz", March 7-10, Southern Theater
 "Roaring into Our Twenties", March 23, Lincoln Theater

Contemporary Theater of Ohio (<https://www.thecontemporaryohio.org/>)
 "Skeleton Crew", February 29-March 17, Riffe Center

Columbus Symphony Orchestra (<http://www.columbussympphony.com>)
 ALL PERFORMANCES AT THE OHIO THEATER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
 "Eugene Onegin", March 1-2, in co-production with Opera Columbus
 "Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 1", March 22-23

{and beyond}

The Akron Art Museum (<http://www.akronartmuseum.org>)
 "RETOLD: African American Art and Folklore", Through March 24

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston (<http://www.mfa.org>)
 "Tender Loving Care: Contemporary Art from the Collection", Ongoing

ICA Boston (<http://www.icaboston.org>)
 "Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s-Today", Through February 25

The Cincinnati Art Museum (<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org>)
 "Charles White: A Little Higher", Through February 25

Contemporary Arts Center (<http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org>)
 "Clandestine: Graffiti Exhibition", Through February 23

Mint Museum, Charlotte NC (<https://www.mintmuseum.org>)
 "Beyond the Red Carpet: Iconic Awards and Artistic Collaborations", Through February 18

The Cleveland Museum of Art (<http://www.clevelandart.org>)
 "New Narratives: Contemporary Works on Paper" Through April 14

The Art Institute of Chicago (<http://www.artic.edu>)
 "Picasso: Drawing from Life", Through April 8

Dayton Art Institute (<http://www.daytonartinstitute.org>)
 "James Pate, Techno-Cubism: The Art of Line Painting", Through April 28

Detroit Institute of Art (<http://www.dia.org>)
 "Masterpieces of Early Italian Renaissance Bronze Statuettes", Through March 3

Indianapolis Museum of Art (<http://www.imamuseum.org>)
 "Building a Beloved Community with We Are Indy Arts Group", Through March 3

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (<http://www.lacma.org>)
 "Painting in the River of Angels: Judy Baca", Through June 2

Minneapolis Institute of Art (<http://www.artsmia.org>)
 "American Gothic: Gordon Parks and Ella Watson", Through June 23

Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC (<http://www.metmuseum.org>)
 "Africa & Byzantium", Through March 3

Museum of Modern Art, New York (<http://www.moma.org>)
 "An-My Lê", Now Open

New Orleans Museum of Art (<http://www.noma.org>)
 "Field and Figure", Through April 14

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (<http://www.cmoa.org>)
 "Everlasting Plastics", March 9-August 11

The Warhol, Pittsburgh (<http://www.warhol.org>)
 "Altered States", Ongoing

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.sfmoma.org>)
 "Zanele Muholi: Eye Me", Through August 11

The Toledo Museum of Art (<http://www.toledomuseum.org>)
 "Sankofa Carnival", Through March 17

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (<http://www.nga.gov>)
 "Dorothea Lange: Seeing People", Through March 31

The Smithsonian American Art Museum & The Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C. (<https://americanart.si.edu>)
 "Isaac Julien: Lessons of the Hour—Frederick Douglass", Ongoing

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