



LaVon Van Williams, Jr.

LaVon's Urban Folk Art

lvwfolkart@gmail.com

ARTIST STATEMENT

We are a work of art. As a sculptor/painter, I work to capture the visual spirit and flare that reflect the art in us. Art for me is a further glance at what is and what can be in life. I want to accentuate and preserve the humanizing connection to art. My passion is to capture our spirit, flare and movement in artful presentation.

BIOGRAPHY

SOLO EXHIBITION

- 2018 Faith Lutheran Church, Lexington, KY
- 2018 Jeanine Taylor Folk Art Gallery, RISE & FLY, The Carved Art of LaVon Van Williams, Sanford, FL
- 2018 "Artist in Bloom" Florida A & M University, Tallahassee's, FL
- 2018 Retrospective "Roots" Lyric Theatre. Lexington, KY
- 2011 The Artisan Center, Berea, KY
- 2009 "When the Spirit Moves You" Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
- 2006 Keny Galleries, LaVon Van Williams, Jr.: Recent Woodcarvings, Columbus, OH
- 2001 Wakefield College, Winston-Salem, NC
- 1990 "From a Place Most High", Art on Main, At Community Bank, Lexington, KY
- 1993 Delta Arts Center, LaVon Williams Sculpture and Paintings, Winston-Salem, NC
- 1992 Diggs Gallery, Winston Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC
- 1991 Seminole State College, Sanford, FL
- 1989 University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- * Jumping for The Sun, Carnegie Center, Art Review, David Minton, Lexington, KY

SHARED EXHIBITION

- 2020 Elijah Pierce & Historic Self-Taught Art from the Ohio Valley, Keny Galleries, Columbus, OH
- 2019 "Men and Women with Keys", Castlewood, Lexington, KY
- 2019 "Roots" Lyric Theatre Lexington, KY
- 2017-18 Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory, NC
- 2009 Kentucky Folk Art Center. Lexington, KY
- 2011 Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Gallery and Museum, Lexington, KY
- 2007 Who Am I? self-portraits by self-taught artist, Kentucky Folk Art Center, Morehead, KY
- 2003 Smithsonian Institute. Washington, D.C.
- * The Art of Leadership, Fisher College of Business, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1999 The Art Exchange, Self-Taught Artist, of the 20th Century, Columbus, OH
- 1999 Southern Ohio Museum, African Currents, Kentucky Art and Craft Gallery, African-American Folk Art: Rich Diversity In Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio
- 1998 African American Folk Art in Kentucky, Morehead, KY
- 1989 Central Bank Gallery, Lexington, KY



ART FESTIVALS STREET FAIR & FESTIVAL

2019	LaVon Van Williams, Jr. Day at Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Gallery and Museum, Lexington, KY
2010-18	A Day in the Country, Morehead, KY
2016	The Foothills Folk Art Festival. Newton, NC
2016	Kentuck Festival of the Arts. Northport, AL
2010 & 11	New Orleans Jazz Festival Congo Square, New Orleans, LA
2005-11	Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
1990	Saratoga Jazz Festival, Saratoga, NY
1998	Hilden Art Fair, Hilden, VT
1987	Los Angeles Summer Street Fair, Los Angeles, CA
1985	Harlem Week, Harlem, NY
1982	West Indian Day Parade, Brooklyn, NY
1980-2	Gainesville Summer Fair, Gainesville, FL

AWARDS AND HONORS

2019	LaVon Van Williams, Jr. Day at Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Gallery and Museum, Lexington, KY
2018	Elected into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
2016	Kentucky Birmingham Best in Show, Northport, AL
2010 & 06	Kentucky's Governor's Award, Frankfort, KY

COLLECTIONS

National Museum of African American History Culture (Logo/Image of program designed for National Black Theatre Festival, Washington, D.C.)
Mayor Office, Denver, CO
University of Kentucky Hospital, Lexington, KY
Ohio University Fischer Gallery, Athens, OH
National Black Theatre Festival, Winston-Salem, NC

COMMISSIONS

2019	Public Art Duncan Park, Lexington, KY
2019-1989	National Black Theater Festival Logo Image (bi-annual event) Program, Merchandise, Publication, Publicity). Winston-Salem, NC
2011	Public Art: Isaac Murphy Memorial Park. Public Art Commission, Lexington, KY
1995	Book Cover for Nikky Finney's "Rice", Lexington, KY
1994	Sculptures for "Deep Cover" Movie, Directed by Bill Duke, New Line Cinema, LA, CA
1992	Dr. Stephen C. Wright's Archives "Out of the Wailing" book cover, Sanford, FL
1991	R.J. Reynolds Co. for the National Black Caucus State Legislators, Winston-Salem, NC
1990	New York Institute For Special Education, Program Logo, Bronx, NY
1989	National Black Theatre Festival Program, Winston-Salem, NC

PUBLICATIONS

2017	Arts & Crafts Across Kentucky, Lexington, KY
2016	When The Spirit Speaks, Self-Taught Art of the South, Margaret Day Allen
2009	LaVon Williams, "Rhythm in Relief", Adrian Swain, Matt Collinsworth, Morehead University, Morehead, KY
2009	"When the Spirit Moves You" Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
1999	"Urban Folk Artist: LaVon Williams", Ed Puterbaugh, Arts & Crafts Across Kentucky, Lexington, KY
1998	African-American Folk Art in Kentucky, Adrian Swain, Kentucky Folk Art Center, Morehead, KY
1996	LaVon Van Williams with his Saints of Old, Black Masks, Spotlight on Black Art, Beth Turner, Bronx, NY