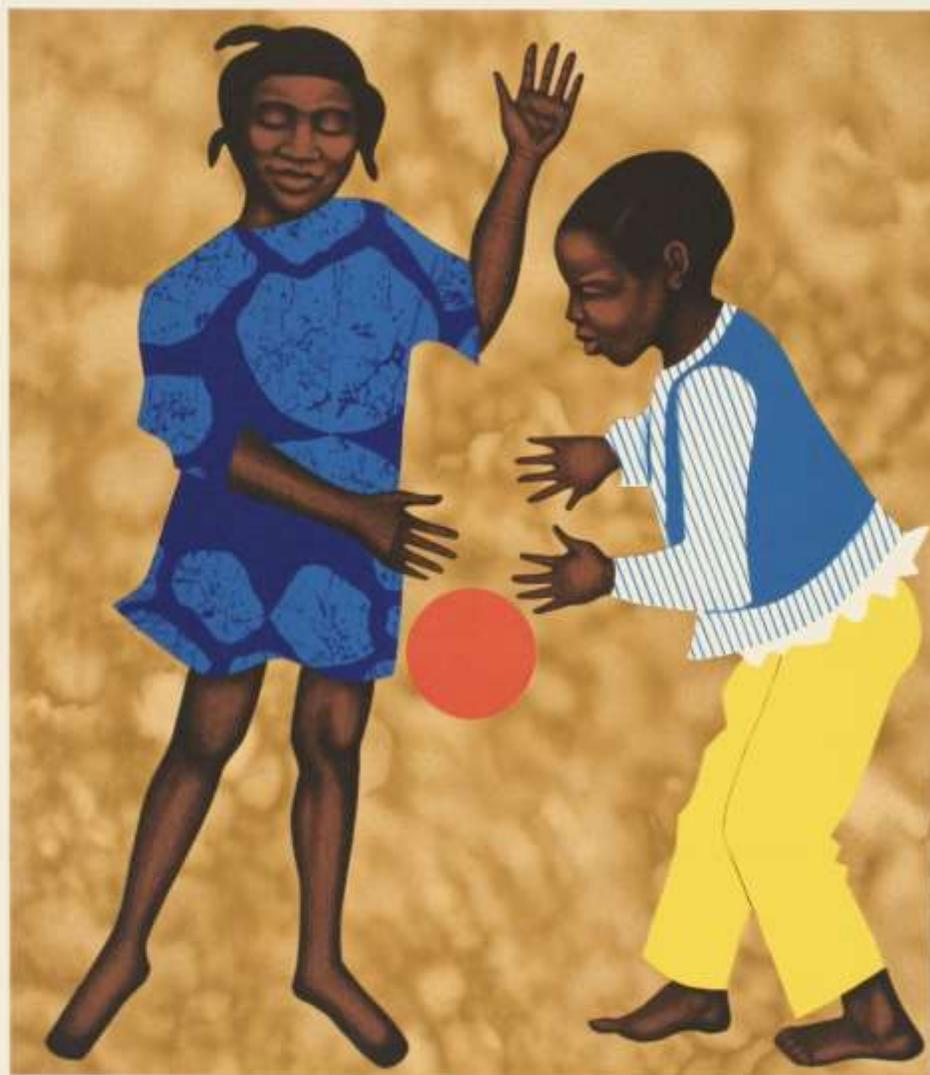




DUBUQUE  
**museum**  
OF **art**



Smithsonian Affiliate



Elizabeth Catlett (American, 1915-2012). *Play Mates*, from the portfolio "For My People," 1992. Lithograph, artist's proof. Collections of the University of Iowa Museum of Art. Museum purchase, 2006.74D

## **Dubuque Museum of Art to Host Traveling Exhibition from the Smithsonian American Art Museum**

### ***Survey of 20th Century African American Art is the First Smithsonian Exhibit to Visit DuMA***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**December 5, 2018 (DUBUQUE, IA)** – The [Dubuque Museum of Art \(DuMA\)](#) today announced that a major traveling exhibition will visit Dubuque in the new year.

Opening January 2019 at the DuMA, *African American Art of the 20th Century* is organized by and drawn from the collections of the world-renowned Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) in Washington, D.C. The exhibition is the first Smithsonian traveling exhibition to visit DuMA since it announced its affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution in January 2016.

According to the SAAM, “[The exhibition] presents a selection of paintings, sculpture, and prints by black artists who explored the African American experience from the Harlem Renaissance through the Civil Rights era and the decades beyond.”

“The artworks in the exhibition lay out a vision of America from an African American viewpoint. These artists embrace many universal themes and also evoke specific aspects of the African American experience—the African Diaspora, jazz, and the persistent power of religion.”

The SAAM's chief curator, Virginia Mecklenburg, will present a talk at the DuMA later in the spring (date TBA).

The exhibition's stop in Dubuque was made possible by major support from Art Bridges, a recent initiative spearheaded by philanthropist and art collector Alice Walton (who is also the daughter of Walmart founder, Sam Walton) and the museum she helped found, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, in Bentonville, Arkansas.

The DuMA was among a handful of smaller museums awarded funding through Art Bridges' competitive Exhibition Projects program, which seeks to place high quality collections of American art in smaller communities.

"We heard early last year that Art Bridges was accepting letters of interest from museums our size," said Schmitz. "The timing was perfect. This exhibition was on our radar, but we were trying to determine how to fund it."

Additional support comes from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Donors to the DuMA's Impact Fund and annual Fund-a-Need also contributed to the project.

The approximately 50 artworks on display from the SAAM will be complimented by a selection of prints, on loan from the University of Iowa Museum of Art, by celebrated African American artist Elizabeth Catlett. Catlett was the first African American woman to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree, which she completed at the University of Iowa in 1940.

A selection of mixed-media works by Fort Dodge, Iowa artist Madai Taylor will also be on view. *Madai Taylor: An Elegy to America in Black and White* opens on the Amuse Bouche Balcony Gallery January 25.

A number of related public programs are planned in conjunction with *African American Art of the 20th Century*, including:

**Exhibition Member Preview**

Friday, January 25

5-8 pm

Museum members free; guests \$10

**First Friday**

Friday, February 1

10 am – 4 pm

FREE admission

**Dubuque Chapter NAACP Speakers Bureau Lunch & Learn Series**

Fridays; 12:15-1 p.m

Dubuque Museum of Art Lobby

- January 25, 12:15-1 p.m.  
Speaker: Tom Lo Guidice  
***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In Iowa: A Message for Today***  
A history about the October 1962 Iowa visit told from the perspectives of a family that greeted Dr. King upon his arrival, the President of Coe College, and the minister at Cornell College and excerpts from the lecture/sermon Dr. King presented.
- February 8, 12:15-1 p.m.  
Speaker: Anthony Allen  
***A Brief History of Civil Rights***  
African-Americans and whites were the founders of the NAACP in 1909. The presentation addresses the history of the organization including contemporary social concerns related to economics, education, education, health, public safety and criminal justice, and voting rights.

- February 22, 12:15-1 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Mary Gitau

***Hidden Figures***

Hidden figures is based on a true story of three female African American Mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. They faced discrimination and institutional racism as they tried to build a career in a male-dominated workplace. Regardless of all that, they were some of the brains behind one the greatest operation in history—the launch of astronaut, John Glenn into the orbit.

- March 22, 12:15-1 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Henry Grubb

***The Maroons: Free People of Color in America***

Maroons were [Africans](#) and their [descendants](#) in the [Americas](#) who formed settlements away from [New World chattel slavery](#). Some had escaped from [plantations](#), but others had always been free, like those born among them in freedom.

- April 5, 12:15-1 p.m.

Speaker: Lynn Sutton

***Food Desserts in Urban America and Urban Dubuque***

(All programs are held at the Dubuque Museum of Art, unless otherwise noted.)

*African American Art of the 20th Century* continues through April 19, 2019.

High-resolution images of works in the exhibit are available upon request.

**About the Dubuque Museum of Art**

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2004, is Iowa's oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA's mission is to excite, engage and serve diverse communities within the Tri-State area through our collections, exhibitions and educational programs. We connect generations of people to their cultural heritage and exceptional art.

DuMA is located across from Washington Park in historic downtown Dubuque at 7th and Locust Streets. Museum hours are Tuesday–Friday 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M., Saturday & Sunday 1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. The museum is closed on Mondays. Daily admission rates are: \$6 Adults, \$5 Seniors, and \$3 College/University Students. The museum is free on Thursdays, and those 18 and younger receive free admission every day, thanks to Prudential Financial. Website: [www.dbqart.com](http://www.dbqart.com)