

James Phillips Cosmic Connection 1971 2022.19.1a-e
Professor at Howard University

Bio: b Brooklyn 1945

Could draw at 6

Single mother keeps moving him to be in a better place

To Gretna, VA with uncle until he was 13: lots of discrimination living next to white sharecroppers

At 13 moved to Philadelphia: could major in art in junior and senior hs

Night school at Phil Museum of Art: Phil College of Art

Printing Trade School NYC and became member Harlem Weusi Artists Collective

Influenced by music

1973-77 artist in residence Howard Univ

1977-79 CETA a nationwide artist initiative of Carter admin

National Endowment of the Arts: exchange in Japan

Visiting lecturer at UC Berkeley 1983-4

Maryland Inst College of Art MFA 1998

2001 Howard University lecturer---assoc prof of foundation and painting overseeing all graduate coursework

Member of AfriCobra: (African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists) Began 1968 as an association of visual artists committed to the collective exploration, development and perpetuation of an approach to image making which would reflect and project the moods, attitudes and sensibilities of African Americans independent of the technical and aesthetic strictures of Euro-centric modalities.

Celebrated culturally-specific expressions of the contemporary Black community

Committed to incorporating African aesthetics (bold color of dress--- kool-ade colors)

Iconography (frontal poses)

And positive political imagery

Elements of jazz

Struggle for liberation and equality within the African American community: art has power

Japanese Buddhist painter

Trademark style of densely patterned surface

“the new works are more rooted in personal experience and discovering Africanisms I grew up with but could not identify”

Light

Sound

Rhythm: cacophony

What do you see:

Acrylic on 5 canvases

Wild colors

Deep tones

Faces/eyes

Arms

Musical instruments: saxophone

String instruments: bass?

Horns

Drums

Flute: fingers playing?

Homage to John Coltrane/Jazz. Coltrane played clarinet, alto horn, alto saxophone, piano and guitar