

Release Date: April 12, 2019

American Art, 1900–1950: The Evans-Tibbs Collection

Ongoing

East Building, Ground Level, Gallery 106B



Aaron Douglas, "Into Bondage", 1936, oil on canvas, overall: 153.4 x 153.7 cm (60 3/8 x 60 1/2 in.), framed: 165.1 x 164.47 x 8.26 cm (65 x 64 3/4 x 3 1/4 in.), National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (Museum Purchase and partial gift from Thurlow Evans Tibbs, Jr., The Evans-Tibbs Collection)

The National Gallery of Art has recently installed eight paintings and sculptures from the mid-20th century derived from the Evans-Tibbs Collection. This grouping reveals the variety of subjects, styles, and positions that African American artists staked out, often against the odds, within the history of modernism. The paintings on view are Margaret G. Burroughs's *Still Life* (1943); Hughie Lee-Smith's *Reflection* (1957); Hale Woodruff's *Landscape* (1936); Edward L. Loper's *Quarry* (c. 1939/1940); Lois Mailou Jones's *The Lovers (Somali Friends)* (1950), and Aaron Douglas's *Into Bondage* (1936), a powerful depiction of enslaved Africans bound for the Americas. Also included are two stunning

sculptures: Elizabeth Catlett's *Reclining Female Nude* (1955) and Richmond Barthé's *Head of a Boy* (c. 1930). The group is supplemented by Douglas's *The Judgement Day* (1939), acquired by the Gallery in 2014, and Lee-Smith's *Slum Song* (1944), on loan from the Hakuta Family.

A tireless art dealer, collector, and promoter who lived in Washington, DC, as well as the grandson of the opera star known as Madame Lillian Evanti, Thurlow Evans Tibbs, Jr., (1952–1997) acquired more than 600 works ranging from the 1890s to the 1990s and transformed his family's historic house on Vermont Avenue into a gallery. Tibbs bequeathed a group of 32 paintings, sculptures, and works on paper by African American artists to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 1996. Following the closing of the Corcoran in 2014, the collection (supplemented by one partial gift from Tibbs and 11 works donated in his memory) entered the Gallery, along with an important archive that Tibbs assembled to document the history of black artists and their work in the United States. The archive was recently displayed in the cases of the East Building Study Center as part of the exhibition *In the Library: The Evans-Tibbs Archive of African American Art* through April 12, 2019.

The installation is curated by Harry Cooper, senior curator of modern art, National Gallery of Art.

Press Contact:

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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