

# Jenkins Johnson Gallery

## Donald Locke

1275 Minnesota Street, #200  
San Francisco | CA 94107 | USA  
(+1) 415.677.0770 | [sf@jenkinsjohnsongallery.com](mailto:sf@jenkinsjohnsongallery.com)

207 Ocean Avenue  
Brooklyn | NY 11225 | USA  
(+1) 212.629.0707 | [nyc@jenkinsjohnsongallery.com](mailto:nyc@jenkinsjohnsongallery.com)  
[www.jenkinsjohnsongallery.com](http://www.jenkinsjohnsongallery.com)

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## DONALD LOCKE

**Donald Cuthbert Locke (17 September 1930 - 6 December 2010)** was a Guyanese artist who created drawings, paintings and sculptures in a variety of media. Travelling extensively throughout America, Britain and the Caribbean, Locke's artistic ideology was always reflective of his early years and his diverse. Introduced to art in Guyana by E.R. Burrowes, he studied at Bath Academy of Art and Edinburgh College. Back home in the 1960's, Locke was part of the creative elite who shaped art after Independence, using the language of modernism, comingled with traditional motifs, to help mold a new International style. He may be best known in the UK for a series of paintings and sculptures entitled, The Plantation Series, forms held in strict lines and grids, connected as if with chains or a series of bars, analogous he has said, to the system whereby one group of people are kept in economic and political subjugation by another. He moved to America in 1979, when he received a Guggenheim Fellowship. During the eleven years spent in the Southwest, Locke was known for his anthropomorphic and figurative sculptures both in clay and in bronze. Towards the end of this period he began painting again – adding collaged materials directly to the surface of canvas or panel. In 1990, he moved from Arizona to Atlanta, where the work of African-American vernacular artists made a dramatic impact on him. From 2006 he turned again to his first love, ceramics.

Locke studied in the United Kingdom and worked in Guyana and the United Kingdom before moving to the United States in 1979. He spent his last twenty years, perhaps the most productive and innovative period of his life, in Atlanta, Georgia. His work is currently held in the Tate London, Victoria & Albert Museum in London, Studio Museum in Harlem and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C, among others. He has been reviewed in renowned publications including The New York Times, Artnet News and Art Space.



Donald Locke, *Venus Engaged*, 1992, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 34 1/2 x 87 in



Donald Locke, *Plantation Piece (Series X/1)*, 1973, signed lte, ceramic, steel, vinyl, formica, 17 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 in



**Donald Locke**  
*Venus Engaged*, 1992  
acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
34 1/2 x 87 inches



**Donald Locke**  
*Plantation Piece (Series X/1)*, 1973  
ceramic, steel, vinyl, formica  
17 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches  
signed

## DONALD LOCKE

### EDUCATION:

- 1969 Post Graduate Award, Ceramic Research, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland  
1959- Edinburgh University, Scotland (in conjunction with Edinburgh College of Art) MA Honors Degree in Fine Art 1964  
1954- Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, England. Teaching Certificate in Art Education  
1957  
1947- Guyana Teacher's Certificate, Ministry of Education, Guyana  
1950

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2022 *Donald Locke: Southern Mansions*, Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta  
2016 *Donald Locke: A Conspiracy of Icons*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta  
*The Plantation Series: Paintings and Sculptures from the 1970s*, Skoto Gallery, Chelsea, NY  
2015 *Donald Locke: The Legacy, Celebrating 85 Years*, Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
2010 *The Edge of Spirit: Selection of Drawings & Mixed Media Sculpture*, Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans, LA  
2008 *Master Works/Recent Works*, Skoto Gallery, Chelsea, NY  
2004 *Bending the Grid, Phase II: Retrospective*, Aljira Arts Center, Newark, NJ  
2003 *The Road to El Dorado: Twelve Years in Atlanta*, City Gallery East, Atlanta, GA  
2002 *From the Altars of El Dorado*, Solomon Projects, Atlanta, GA  
2001 *Pathway to Excellence: 20 Year Retrospective*, Aljira Arts Center, Newark, NJ  
2000 *Iconography of Timehri Man, 60 canvases*, Kubatana Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
*Southern Mansions*, Mary Pauline Gallery, Augusta, GA  
1999 *Atlanta Painting Retrospective*, Nations Bank Plaza, Atlanta, GA  
1994 *The Topography of Memory*, Chastain Gallery, City of Atlanta, Bureau of Cultural Affairs  
1991 Spelman College, Atlanta, GA  
1986 Udinotti Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ  
1985 Udinotti Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ  
1984 *Sculpture Retrospective, 1974-1984*, Tucson Museum of Art, AZ  
1983 Featured Artist, Flagstaff Festival of the Arts, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ  
1981 Arizona Squares, Arizona desert, Phoenix and Yuma  
1980 Guggenheim Fellowship Project: The Room - an Environment with Fifteen Black Surfaces, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
1979 Inaugural Exhibition, Foyer Gallery, Sir John Cass School of Art, London, England  
1978 Galleria Lorenzelli, Milan, Italy  
West Norwood Library, London, England  
Anthony Shaw Showcase Gallery, London, England  
1977 Special Demonstration Exhibition, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, Scotland  
The Gallery, Hampstead, London  
1975 Retrospective of 1965-1975, Commonwealth Institute, England  
1972 Private Sponsorship of First Exhibition in England - Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomasson Berkshire, England

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2017 *Liminal Space*, Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, New York, NY  
2016 Inaugural Exhibition, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), Washington, DC

- Ceramics*, Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
*Un|Fixed Homeland*, Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ  
*This Postman Collects, Selections from the Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection*, Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries, Atlanta, GA
- 2014 *Tradition Redefined: The Larry and Brenda Thompson Collection of African American Art*, David C. Driskell Center, MD; MOCA, Jacksonville, FL; Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA; Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, TX; Knoxville Museum of Art, TN; and Saint Louis University, MO – traveling group exhibition  
*Art Against the Wall: An Artist Response to Civil Wars*, Gallery 72, Atlanta, GA
- 2013 *Crosscurrents: Africa and Black Diasporas in Dialogue*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  
*Timehri Transitions: Expanding Concepts in Guyana Art*, Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkelaba, New York, NY
- 2009 *Collected: Propositions on the Permanent Collection*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2008 *Reunion: All Masters' Show*, City Gallery East, Atlanta, GA
- 2007 *Looks Good On Paper*, Spruill Center for the Arts, Atlanta, GA
- 2006 *Change*, Spruill Center for the Arts, Atlanta, GA
- 2006 *Pin Up Show*, City Gallery East, Atlanta, GA
- 2004 *Talking Furniture Design: Sculptors Make Furniture*, Museum of Design, Atlanta, GA  
*Transitions II*, MOCA-GA, Atlanta, GA
- 2003 Atlanta Biennial, The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA
- 1998 Black Arts Festival, Bender Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- 1997 *New Bronze Sculptures*, Timothy Tew Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1996 *An American Renaissance: Paintings in the Spirit of the American South*, Cultural Olympiad, Atlanta, GA  
*The Valentine Project*, Gallery Without Walls, Newark, NJ
- 1994 *Dimensions of Guyana*, Camille Love Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1994 Horwitch Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1992 Atlanta Biennial - Into the Light, Nexus, Atlanta, GA  
 Timothy Tew Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
 Three Atlanta Artists, Hammonds House Galleries, Atlanta, GA
- 1991 *From Jericho to Peachtree*, Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1989 Inaugural Exhibition, Arizona State University Museum, Tempe, AZ
- 1988 ABCA Artists of the Black Community – America, Arizona Bank Galleria, Phoenix, AZ
- 1988 *Sculpture: Monumental and Miniature*, Tempe Fine Arts Center, Tempe, AZ
- 1987 *They Came to America*, Arneson Fine Art, Vail, CO
- 1987 *Sculpture in Bronze*, Sesnon Gallery, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA
- 1986 Hale Woodruff Biennial, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 1986 Contemporary Perspectives by Afro-American Artists, Arizona State University
- 1984 Black and White Invitational, Marilyn Butler Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 1984 Udinotti Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1983 *Window to the West*, Austin Gallery and Marilyn Butler Fine Art, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1981 *The Circus*, Rosenthal Galleries, Chicago, IL
- 1981 ABCA, Artists of the Black Community – America, Arizona Bank Galleries, Phoenix, AZ
- 1980 Ianuzzi Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1978 Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, London, England  
 Two Person exhibition, Amalgram Gallery, London, England
- 1976 *One from Thirty*, Amalgram Gallery, London, England  
 Katie Horsman Commemorative Exhibition, New 57 Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1975 The London Group, Camden Arts Center, London, England

- 1974, Nicholas Treadwell Gallery, London, England
- 1973 Eight-person Inaugural Exhibition, Amalgram Gallery, London, England
- 1973 Chester Festival of Art, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the founding of the City, Chester, England
- 1972 Caribbean Artists in Britain, Commonwealth Institute, London, England
- 1971 Treadwell Gallery, London, England
- 1970 Pace Gallery, London, England
- 1969 The 1967 Group, John F. Kennedy Library, Georgetown, Guyana
- 1968 The 1967 Group British Council Library, Georgetown, Guyana
- 1964 Guyana National Exhibition, Georgetown, Guyana
- 1963 New Vision Gallery, London, England
- 1962 West Indian Federation Commemorative, Paperback Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1958 Working People's Art Class (WPAC) Annual, Georgetown, Guyana
- 1957 Drawing and Painting, Carnegie Library, Georgetown, Guyana
- 1954 WPAC at Victoria Institute, London, England
- 1947-1954 Annual Exhibitions, Working People's Art Class (WPAC) Georgetown, Guyana

**AWARDS:**

- 1996 Hambidge Fellowship, GA
- 1996 Committee for Olympic Development in Atlanta, Sculpture Commission
- 1988 Mid-Atlantic Art Foundation Fellowship, Critic-in-Residence at Aljira Arts, Newark, NJ
- 1986 Biennial Purchase Award, Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
- 1979 Guggenheim Fellowship in Sculpture
- 1979 Artist in Residence, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 1978 British Council Exhibition Grant
- 1977 British Council Exhibition Grant to the United States
- 1970 Traveling Fellowship to Brazil, Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1969-70 British Council Bursary, Ceramic Research, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland
- 1962-63 Edinburgh University Grant for historical research in Florence and Ravenna, Italy
- 1961 Lowenstein Fellowship for Research, The Hague, Netherlands
- 1960 Cousins Prize for Art, Edinburgh University, Scotland
- 1959 Scholarship to Edinburgh University, Scotland, from Guyana Ministry of Education
- 1959 "Abstract Painting of the Year" Guyanese Art Group Annual Exhibition, Georgetown, Guyana
- 1956 Scholarship to Bath Academy of Art, England, from Guyana Ministry of Education
- 1954 British Council Scholarship to Bath Academy of Art, England
- 1953 Gold Medal First Award, Working People's Art Class, Guyana
- 1949 Prize for Painting, WPAC Annual, Georgetown, Guyana

**COLLECTIONS:**

- High Museum of Art
- Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ
- Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA
- Galleria Lorenzelli, Milan, Italy
- Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA
- Guyana National Collection, Georgetown, Guyana
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Atlanta, GA

Mayor's Office, City Hall, Atlanta, GA  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brasilia, Brazil  
MOCA-GA, Atlanta, GA  
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), Washington, DC  
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
Tate Britain, London, England  
Tubman Museum of African American Art, Macon, GA  
University of Maryland, David C. Driskell Center, College Park, MD  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England

**PRESS:**

Cotter, Holland. "Donald Locke, The Plantation Series: Paintings and Sculptures From the 1970s." The New York Times. May 20, 2016.  
Cotter, Holland. "Bending the Grid: Modernity, Identity and the Vernacular in the Work of Donald Locke." The New York Times. June 25, 2004.  
Genocchio, Benjamin. "Picasso, Guyanese Jungles And A Robust Hybrid Art." New York Times. May 30, 2004.  
Bischoff, Dan. "Guyanese Casts off Colonial Shadow." New Jersey Star – Legen., April 25, 2004.  
Hazlewood, Carl. "Bending the Grid: Modernity, Identity, and the Vernacular in the work of Donald Locke." April 2004.  
Araeen, Rasheed. "Recovering Cultural Metaphors." The Other Story, 1989.  
Hay, Vicky. "The Multifaceted Donald Locke." Smithsonian Institution's American Visions. October 1989.  
Claribel Cone and Barbara Cortright, "Donald Locke", ARTSPACE: Southwestern Contemporary Arts Quarterly 1980.