



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

DAVID C. DRISKELL CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF THE VISUAL ARTS AND CULTURE OF
AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE**

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**THE DAVID C. DRISKELL CENTER ANNOUNCES THE
“LIVING LEGACY NATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR”
WITH DAVID C. DRISKELL AND CURLEE RAVEN HOLTON**

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — The David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park is pleased to announce a historic journey to present, celebrate, and document the achievements and legacy of its founder, David C. Driskell. The Living Legacy National Speaking Tour is an opportunity for the Driskell Center to highlight Professor Driskell and his legacy as an artist, scholar, and cultural historian to different areas of the United States, especially those communities which have traditionally had fewer opportunities to engage with the contributions of Professor Driskell and other African American artists to the American art canon.

This speaking tour, envisioned as a series of conversations between Professor David C. Driskell and Professor Curlee R. Holton, will provide an opportunity for audiences and communities around the country to learn about the contributions of Professor Driskell, and of African American artists, to the country’s artistic history. Driskell has lived through, and witnessed firsthand, the dynamic historic changes in America that define our contemporary cultural landscape. His lifetime of experience makes him a national treasure, and in addition to his singular accomplishments, he is a gifted and inspiring speaker whose personal narrative brings with it an intimate and powerful voice. It is for these reasons that the Driskell Center is excited to launch this national tour of conversations with Professor Driskell and to bring African American art and art history to communities nationwide.

This national tour will be fully managed by the David C. Driskell Center directors and staff. The proposed tour would be composed of twenty different speaking engagements (ten events per year) that would be made available to colleges, universities, churches, museums, community centers, and civic organizations. These engagements are to be conversations between Professor David C. Driskell and Professor Curlee R. Holton, and some will be recorded for posterity and for the Center to use in the future.

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ABOUT DAVID C. DRISKELL

Trained as a painter and art historian, David C. Driskell works primarily in collage and mixed media. Driskell has maintained an active career as a practicing artist, teacher, curator, collector, art administrator, and art consultant for more than 60 years. He has lectured across the globe, and his works are included in major collections of art museums throughout the world. Professor Driskell has authored five exhibition catalogues on the subject of African American art. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships, awards, and prizes, including three Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships and a Harmon Foundation Fellowship. In 2000, he received the National Humanities Medal from President Clinton. In 2005, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA established the David C. Driskell Prize, the first national award to honor and celebrate contributions to the field of African American art and art history.

ABOUT CURLEE R. HOLTON

Curlee R. Holton has been the Executive Director of the David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland since 2012. The David M. and Linda Roth Professor of Art, emeritus, at Lafayette College, Easton, PA, Holton is a printmaker and painter whose work has been exhibited professionally for over twenty-five years in more than thirty one-person shows and over eighty group shows. His exhibitions have included prestigious national and international venues such as Egypt's 7th International Biennale, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. His work is in many private and public collections including the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio; Yale University Art Gallery; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. As part of his research and study as an artist-scholar he has lectured and presented demonstrations throughout the United States and abroad in Europe, Mexico, the West Indies, and Costa Rica. He has presented over seventy public lectures on the subjects of his work, African American art, and contemporary printmaking. He has written numerous articles and essays on art and artists that have been published in catalogues and journals. Holton earned his M.F.A. with honors from Kent State University and his B.F.A. from the Cleveland Institute of Fine Arts in Drawing and Printmaking. Since 1991 he has taught Printmaking and African American Art History at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania and is also the founding director of the Experimental Printmaking Institute.

ABOUT THE DAVID C. DRISKELL CENTER

The David C. Driskell Center honors the legacy of David C. Driskell—Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Art, Artist, Art Historian, Collector, Curator, and Philanthropist—by preserving the rich heritage of African American visual art and culture. The Driskell Center is committed to preserving, documenting, and presenting African American art, as well as replenishing and expanding the field of African American art. All programs at the David C. Driskell Center are free and open to the public. For further information regarding exhibitions and activities at the Driskell Center, please call 301.314.2615 or visit www.driskellcenter.umd.edu.