



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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**DAVID C. DRISKELL TO RECEIVE LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD FROM
SKOWHEGAN SCHOOL OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**

COLLEGE PARK, MD. –The David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland is proud to announce that David C. Driskell – Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Art, Artist, Art Historian, Collector, Curator, and Philanthropist – will be presented with a Lifetime Legacy Award from the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, an intensive nine-week summer residency program for emerging visual artists in Skowhegan, Maine. David C. Driskell completed the program as a student in 1953, and served as a faculty member in 1976, 1978, 1991, and 2004. David C. Driskell will be presented with the award at the Skowhegan Awards Dinner in New York City on April 26, 2016. 2016 will be the 70th anniversary of Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture’s opening.

ABOUT THE SKOWHEGAN SCHOOL

The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture was established in 1946. Each year, 65 emerging artists from around the world are accepted to participate in the prestigious program; to date more than 4,100 artists have completed the program. The Awards Dinner will be part of a year of dynamic programming in New York and Maine to celebrate the School’s anniversary. In the invitation to announce the award, Katie Sonnenborn and Sarah Workneh, Co-Directors of the School, wrote to David C. Driskell, “Your lifetime dedication to the study of African American visual arts and culture demonstrates your deep belief in the benefits of artists *teaching* other artists – a principle that could not be more resonant with the priorities of Skowhegan. Your leadership at the Driskell Center demonstrates your commitment to advocacy, sharing knowledge, and discussion. Moreover, your understanding and stewardship of Skowhegan – as student, faculty, Governor, Trustee, and Advisor – is not only exceedingly rare, but has made a lasting impact.”

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Other confirmed honorees at the Awards Dinner will include Shelley and Donald Rubin, receiving the Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Award Outstanding Patronage of the Arts for their creation of the Rubin Museum, The 8th Floor Exhibition Space, the Rubin Foundation, and A Blade of Grass; and Julie Mehretu, who will receive the Skowhegan Medal for Painting.

ABOUT DAVID C. DRISKELL

Trained as a painter and art historian, Driskell works primarily in collage, mixed media, and printmaking. He joined the faculty of the Department of Art at the University of Maryland, College Park in 1977 and served as its Chairperson from 1978-1983. In 1995, he was named Distinguished University Professor of Art and taught until his retirement in 1998. In 2001, the University of Maryland established the David C. Driskell Center to honor David C. Driskell as an Artist, Art Historian, Collector, Curator, and Scholar by preserving the rich heritage of African American visual art and culture.

The recipient of numerous fellowships, awards, and prizes, David C. Driskell has also received thirteen honorary doctoral degrees in art. While teaching at the University of Maryland, Prof. Driskell maintained an active career as a practicing artist, teacher, curator, collector, art administrator, and art consultant. He has lectured around the globe, and his works are included in major collections of art museums throughout the world. Prof. Driskell has authored five exhibition catalogues on the subject of African American art, co-authored four others, and published more than 40 catalogues from exhibitions he has curated. In 2000, David C. Driskell was honored by President Bill Clinton as one of 12 recipients of the National Humanities Medal. 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. In 2007, Prof. Driskell was elected as a National Academician by the National Academy.

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. The facility is wheelchair accessible. For further information regarding exhibitions and activities at the Driskell Center, please call 301.314.2615 or visit www.driskellcenter.umd.edu.