



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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

1214 Cole Student Activities Building  
College Park, Maryland 20742  
301.314.2615 TEL 301.314.0679 FAX  
driskellcenter@umd.edu  
www.driskellcenter.umd.edu

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NEWS RELEASE**

Date: February 25, 2016  
Contact: Ms. Dorit Yaron  
Title: Deputy Director  
Phone: 301-405-6835  
Email: [dyaron@umd.edu](mailto:dyaron@umd.edu)

**THE DAVID C. DRISKELL CENTER FEATURES THE WORK OF TWO MASTERS IN “A  
COLLABORATION OF CREATIVITY: TWO MASTERS—DAVID C. DRISKELL MASTER ARTIST  
& CURLEE R. HOLTON MASTER PRINTMAKER”**

**COLLEGE PARK, MD.** – The David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland is proud to present African American artists Curlee R. Holton and David C. Driskell in a unique exhibition, *A Collaboration of Creativity: Two Masters—David C. Driskell Master Artist & Curlee R. Holton Master Printmaker*. *A Collaboration of Creativity* features 21 works on paper and highlights the creativity of Curlee R. Holton and David C. Driskell, both as individuals and as collaborators for more than ten years. Both artists have risen to prominence in their field throughout their artistic careers, and the exhibition will showcase their work in diverse mediums including aquatint, collage, drawing, etching, lithograph, and serigraph. helping change the cultural landscape in American art

The exhibition focuses on the creativity that blossoms when artists collaborate across mediums. Rodney Moore, David C. Driskell's Art Manager, noted in the exhibition's brochure that, “One key observation of the interaction between Curlee and David is the tremendous amount of respect and admiration they have for each other.” The two artists began collaborating in 2003 with *Brown Derby*, a limited edition etching, featuring mask-like, overlapping faces, based on one of Driskell's drawings from the same year. Holton carefully processed the image as an etching and aquatint. His printmaking techniques were expertly employed to capture the subtle quality of line of Driskell's drawing for the final edition of the plate. A later project, *Woman in Interior*, was started at the Experimental Printmaking Institute in Pennsylvania and completed in San Jose, Costa Rica, where they worked with local printers. It became a celebration of shared cultural appreciation and a common artistic bond, incorporating multiple mediums of etching, serigraphy, digital elements, and hand-printed fabric. A copy of *Woman in Interior* was placed in the permanent collection of the President of Costa Rica.

On the subject of impacting the canon of American art, Driskell described Holton's approach to practicing art throughout his career as “helping [to] change the cultural landscape in American art.” Curlee

<<OVER>>

R. Holton has described the importance of the relationship between the artist and printmaker as follows, “Fueled by individual circumstances, honed by skill and personal desires, the artist independently brings to life his or her unique vision and form of expression... But just as important as the initial inspiration is the collaboration between artists that remains a mainstay of the visual arts. [This] collaboration stems from a special relationship and a moment in time when artists coalesce around a singular idea.”

*A Collaboration of Creativity* began its national tour at the Martha Gault Art Gallery at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, PA from February 2-25. The opening reception for *A Collaboration of Creativity* took place on Tuesday, February 2 at the Gault Gallery.

### **ABOUT DAVID C. DRISKELL**

David C. Driskell has maintained an active career as a practicing artist, teacher, curator, collector, art administrator, and art consultant. 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.

### **ABOUT CURLEE R. HOLTON**

Curlee Raven Holton is a printmaker and painter whose work has been exhibited in more than forty one-person shows and one hundred group shows. His exhibitions have included prestigious national and international venues like Egypt's 7th International Biennale, Taller de Artes Plasticas Rufino Tamayo in Oaxaca, Mexico, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Holton has collaborated numerous times with David C. Driskell. Curlee R. Holton is currently the Executive Director of the David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland.

### **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](http://www.driskellcenter.umd.edu).