



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

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 7, 2007
Contact: Ms. Dorit Yaron
Title: Deputy Director
Phone: 301.405.6835
Email: dyaron@umd.edu

PRINTS BY DAVID C. DRISKELL ARE PRESENTED AT THE NEW HOME OF THE DAVID C.
DRISKELL CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

COLLEGE PARK - *Evolution: Five Decades of Printmaking by David C. Driskell* highlights for the first time the prints of the renowned Distinguished University of Maryland Professor Emeritus of Art, David C. Driskell, an Artist, Art Historian, Collector, Curator, Educator, and one of the most recognized and respected names in the world of African American art and culture.

Evolution is organized by the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland, College Park. The exhibition is the inaugural exhibition of the David C. Driskell Center at its new home in the Cole Student Activities Building (aka Cole Field House), located in the heart of the University of Maryland campus, adjacent to Adele H. Stamp Student Union. The new Center includes an exhibition space, a vault for the Center's permanent collection, an archive room, a study room, and offices. *Evolution* will be on view from Wednesday, October 17, 2007 through Friday, March 14, 2008. The public opening reception will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, from 5:00-7:00PM.

The exhibition includes more than seventy-five prints by Driskell as well as several works on paper which will provide insight into Driskell's artistic process and development. In addition, the exhibition will include several woodblocks used to produce the prints. *Evolution* is curated by the David C. Driskell Center's Curator-in-Residence, Dr. Adrienne L. Childs, a graduate of the Department of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Accompanying the exhibition is a fully-illustrated, 120-page, scholarly catalogue published by Pomegranate Communications Inc. In addition to a curatorial essay by Dr. Adrienne Childs, the catalogue includes an Acknowledgment by Dr. Robert E. Steele, Executive Director of the Driskell Center; an essay by Ruth Fine, Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.; and an introduction by Deborah Willis, Professor of Art, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. The catalogue includes color reproductions

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of all the works in the exhibition as well as a comprehensive list of David C. Driskell's prints, with thumbnail color reproductions of the prints not included in the exhibition. The catalogue retail price is \$30 a copy.

The exhibition is supported, in part, by the Maryland State Arts Council, Prince George's County Arts Council, and the University of Maryland's Office of the President.

Prof. Driskell studied at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine and received his undergraduate degree in art at Howard University (1955) and a Masters in Fine Arts degree from Catholic University (1962). He joined the faculty of the Department of Art at the University of Maryland in 1977 and served as its Chairman from 1978-1983. He has been a practicing artist since the 1950s and his works are in major museums throughout the world, including the National Gallery and Yale University Art Gallery, to name a few. In 1976, David curated the groundbreaking exhibit "Two Centuries of Black American Art: 1750-1950" which laid the foundation for the field of African American Art History. Since 1977, Prof. Driskell has served as cultural advisor to Camille O. and William H. Cosby and as the curator of the Cosby Collection of Fine Arts. In 2000, in a White House Ceremony, Prof. Driskell received the National Humanities Medal from President Bill Clinton. In 2007, he was elected as a National Academician by the National Academy.

The David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland celebrates the legacy of David C. Driskell -- Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Art, Artist, Art Historian, Collector, and Curator -- by preserving the rich heritage of African American visual art and culture. Established in 2001, the Center provides an intellectual home for artists, museum professionals, art administrators, and scholars of color, broadening the field of African diasporic studies. The Driskell Center is committed to preserve, document, and present African American art as well as to replenish and expand the field of African American art.

All exhibitions and events at the David C. Driskell Center are free and open to the public. The facility is wheelchair accessible. Assistance for the hearing impaired can be arranged with advance notice by calling 301.314.2615. The David C. Driskell Center hours are Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm with extended hours on Wednesday until 6:00 pm. The David C. Driskell Center observes all University of Maryland, College Park closings, including snow days and holidays. For further information regarding this exhibition and future events and activities at the David C. Driskell Center, please call 301.314.2615 or visit www.driskellcenter.umd.edu.