

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## CHRONOLOGY OF ROMARE BEARDEN

- 1914: September 2 - Romare Howard Bearden born in Charlotte, North Carolina, to Richard Howard and Bessye Johnson Bearden. Father works for New York Department of Health as sanitation inspector; mother is New York editor of the Chicago Defender and founder and first president of the Negro Women's Democratic Association.
- 1935: Receives BS degree from N.Y.U. Works as a cartoonist.
- 1936-7: Studies life-drawing and painting with George Grosz at the Art Students League, New York. Joins the "306" group, an informal association of black artists living in Harlem, meeting at the studios of Henry Bannarn and Charles Alston at 306 W 141 St. Most of these artists are also members of the Harlem Artists Guild, a formal organization of Negro Artists active from the mid-30's until the outbreak of World War II. Early figurative paintings included in several exhibitions at the Harlem YWCA and the Harlem Art Workshop.
- 1938: Enters New York City Department of Social Services as case worker.
- 1940: Begins painting in tempera, primarily southern scenes. First one-man exhibition at studio of Ad Bates in Harlem. Early student works are shown.
- 1942: Begins service in U.S. Army, 372nd Infantry Division.
- 1944: One-man show in Washington, D.C.
- 1945: One-man exhibition at G. Place Gallery, Washington, D.C. First one-man exhibition in New York gallery; Samuel M. Kootz. He is Arisen acquired by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; first work to be acquired by a museum.
- 1946: Included in "Annual Exhibition of American Sculpture, Watercolors and Drawings" at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- 1947: Exhibits with other winners of La Tausca Art Competition, New York. Several works included in exhibition at Galerie Maeght, Paris, sponsored by the USIS. Included in 58th Annual Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- 1950: Goes to Paris on the G.I. Bill to study at the Sorbonne, but does not paint. Later travels to Italy.
- 1951: Returns to New York. Paints intermittently but concentrates on song writing; joins ASCAP and has many songs published.
- 1952: Resumes work for New York Department of Social Services; case load only involves gypsies; continues to work until 1966.
- 1954: September 4 - marries Nanett Rohan. Resumes painting.
- 1956: Moves into present studio on Canal Street in New York.

(more)

- 1958: Paintings now almost exclusively non-objective.
- 1961: One-man exhibition at Cordier & Warren Gallery, New York; continues to show abstract paintings. May-June: travels in Europe. Included in "The 1961 Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Paintings and Sculpture" at the Carnegie Institute.
- 1963: Spiral Group is formed, meeting initially in Bearden's studio, later opens a gallery. Founded before the civil rights march on Washington.
- 1964: Appointed to position (still held) as Art Director of Harlem Cultural Council. One-man exhibition at Cordier & Ekstrom, New York, includes collages from Projections series and their photo-enlargements. Works exclusively in collage from this point on.
- 1966: Receives grant in Art from The National Institute of Arts and Letters. Directs and participates in exhibition "The Art of the American Negro" at the Harlem Cultural Council, New York.
- 1967: Co-directs with Carroll Greene "The Evolution of Afro-American Artists: 1800-1950" sponsored by the City University of New York, The Harlem Cultural Council, and the New York Urban League, in the Great Hall of City College, New York.
- 1968: Included in Poster show in Poland and Bulgaria, in group shows at Dartmouth College, Minneapolis Institute, The Studio Museum in Harlem. One-man shows in Atlanta, Ga., and State University of New York at Albany.
- 1969: One-man exhibition at Williams College Museum and at the State University of Iowa. Co-authors with Carl Holty The Painter's Mind (New York; Crown Publishing).
- 1970: Teaches at Williams College. Participates in "Five Famous Black Artists" at Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston. Receives grant from Guggenheim Foundation to write book on the history of Afro-American art. Included in exhibition "She" at Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc.

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