



School's Out, 1936, Allan Rohan, oil on canvas, 30.25" x 36.125"

SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM (5)

A Century in the Making

AN IMPORTANT SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION MAKES A STOP AT THE MENNELLO MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART.

The 20th century was a time of great change in America, and many of the social, political and cultural movements that came to define the era, such as the jazz age, the Harlem Renaissance and the civil rights movement, were rooted in African-American communities. Many African-American artists of the time explored their identities through a variety of media and in styles as varied as postmodernism, documentary realism and expressionism. Now, an exhibition organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum presents a selection of works by 43 African-American artists who experienced the tremendous changes of the 20th century firsthand.

Assembled by Virginia Mecklenburg, senior curator of painting and sculpture at the museum, *African American Art: Harlem*

Renaissance, Civil Rights Era and Beyond comes to The Mennello Museum of American Art on February 1. It includes 100 works drawn entirely from the Smithsonian's rich collection of African-American art, which is the largest in the United States. In paintings, sculpture, prints and photographs, the featured artists embrace themes that are both universal and specific to the African-American experience, including the exploration of identity, the struggle for equality, the power of music, and the beauties and hardships of life in rural and urban America.

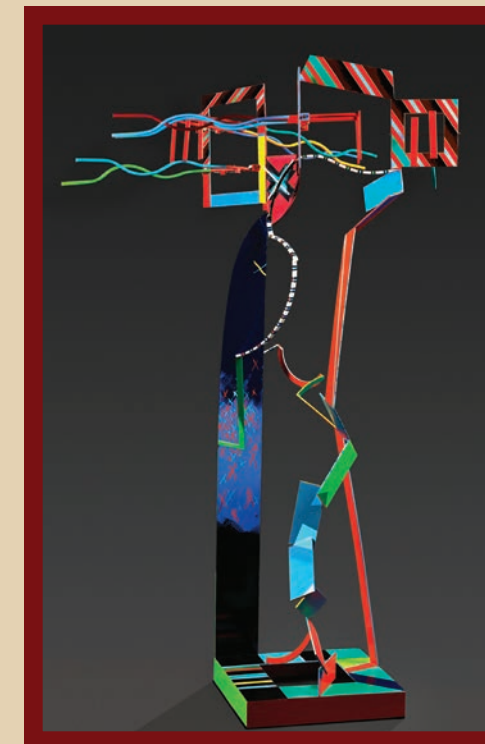
More than half of the works are being exhibited for the first time, including paintings by Benny Andrews, Lois Mailou Jones and Jacob Lawrence, as well as photographs by Roy DeCarava, Gordon Parks

and Marilyn Nance. Ten of the artworks were acquired within the past five years. More than half of the objects are photographs, including studio portraits by James VanDerZee that document the rise of the black middle class in the 1920s, and powerful black-and-white photographs by DeCarava, Nance, Parks, Robert McNeill, Roland Freeman and Tony Gleaton that chronicle everyday life from the 1930s through the end of the 20th century.

African American Art: Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Era and Beyond opens with a special reception on February 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Mennello; admission is \$5 for nonmembers, free for members. The exhibition runs through April 28. **oam**



Sowing, 1940, William H. Johnson, oil on burlap, 38.5" x 45.75", gift of the Harmon Foundation



Thornbush Blues Totem, 1990, John Scott, painted steel, 97.75" x 63.5" x 37.5"

African American Art: Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Era & Beyond
February 1 to April 28
The Mennello Museum of American Art
407.246.4278 • mennellomuseum.com



New Car (South Richmond, Virginia), from the project *The Negro in Virginia*, 1938, Robert McNeill, gelatin silver print, 10" x 8"



Still Life with Peonies, 1949, James A. Porter, oil on canvas, 40" x 30.125"