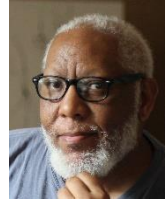


Harold Smith

- American, b. 1962
- M.A.T, Webster University; B.S., computer science, Union College; A.A., Kansas City Kansas Community College
- lives and works in the Kansas City area
- www.haroldsmithart.com



Body of Work

Harold Smith works primarily in acrylics and mixed media. His paintings focus on the American black experience, and he is known for his dynamic expressionist paintings of figures and the themes of music and current or historical events. Smith stated, "My work is influenced by the jazz and the jazz dynamic in life." He describes his *Men of Color* series as his "personal exploration of the complex, chaotic, and multilayered experience of men of color in America." His expressionistic vocabulary reflects his self-study of artists including Henri Matisse, Emil Nolde and Joan Mitchell; the content stems from his desire to celebrate the contributions of black culture and push back against racism. He said in a 2017 interview with KC Studio: "I think the media sometimes creates polarizing imagery of black men. Either you are an Obama or you are a thug. In my opinion, regular, hard-working, simple, black men are an ignored group. They are the new 'invisible man.'"

Smith is a member of the African American Artist's Collective, Black Space Black Art and The KC Black Arts Network. He is a community activist, and he also writes poetry and make films, including a documentary on poet Glenn North. He teaches game design at the Manual Career and Technical Center in Kansas City, MO, and he worked for years as a computer programmer.

Smith's work has been collected worldwide, and he has produced numerous online publications, from "Urbankore" to catalogs of his work. Selected exhibitions include Black Space/Black Art, Traveling Exhibit in Kansas City; Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans; Le Moulin du logis, Angouleme, and Cognac Blues Passions, an annual blues festival in Cognac, France; University of Maryland, David Driskell Center; Montana ro Gallery, Rhode Island; Nobis Gallery, Newark; Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba, New York; American Jazz Museum, Box Gallery, Faso Gallery, Kansas City; Kansas City, KS Public Library; and Johnson County Public Library, Shawnee Mission.



"Arm of Democracy" (2001) is one of a series of early works in which Smith confronted an American life "fragmented with problems."



Self-Portrait in D Minor, 2015, Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2019.04, Acquired with funds provided by the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Art Acquisition Endowment at the JCCC Foundation

ON VIEW in the exhibition Foresight/Insight – Reflecting on the Museum’s Collection
2nd FLOOR MCCAFFREE GALLERY