Library
Street
Collective

CHARLES MCGEE

Library Street Collective
1260 Library Street
Detroit, MI 48226

T: (313) 600-7443
E: info@lscgallery.com
www.lscgallery.com

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CHARLES MCGEE

During an almost eight decade career, artist and visionary Charles McGee created paintings, assemblages, sculptures, public works, and a sense of community with his artwork and teaching throughout Detroit, Michigan. His enduring themes chronicle the Black experience and a love of nature that span an evolution across mediums. Throughout Charles McGee's extensive career, his practice shifted multiple times, ebbing and flowing from vibrant color to black and white and back again, and through varying degrees of abstraction, always celebrating the creative nature of humankind. During the beginning of McGee's career, he produced a number of realistic portraits focusing mostly on highlighting Black women and motherhood. Yet, he soon became more interested in abstraction, oftentimes featuring abstracted figures. Many of his works, however, focused completely on line and color, with no recognizable nods to figuration. Through his work, McGee focused on process rather than attempting to dictate a specific meaning or story.

McGee's work is in the collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, among many others. An instructor at Eastern Michigan University for almost 20 years, he also taught at the University of Michigan and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. He co-founded the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit in 1978, and received multiple accolades and awards over his lifetime, including being named the first Kresge Eminent Artist in 2008 and a Michigan Legacy Art Park Award (2019). He was given an honorary doctorate from the College for Creative Studies for his work as an artist and educator.

Charles McGee was born in 1924 in Clemson, South Carolina and died February of 2021 in Detroit, Michigan.

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Born 1924 in Clemson, South Carolina and died February of 2021 in Detroit, Michigan.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Charles McGee: Still Searching*, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI

2011 *2 Centuries, 3 Decades, 28 Works by Charles McGee*, Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, University Center, MI

2010 *Energy: Charles McGee at Eighty-Five*, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI

2009 *Energy: Charles McGee at Eighty-Five*, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

2002 Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI

1994 Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
Seeing Seventy, The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Dennos Museum Center, Traverse City, MI

1991 Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

1990 Sienna Heights College, Adrian, MI

1989 *A Sustained Vision*, Detroit Focus Gallery, Detroit, MI

1980 *Life, Death and the Middle Ground*, Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, MI

1977 Pontiac Creative Arts Center, Pontiac, MI

1974 *New Works*, Gallery 7, Detroit, MI

1970 Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

1968 Oak Park Public Library, Oak Park, MI

1966 Arwin Galleries, Detroit, MI

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1965 Arts Extended Gallery, Detroit, MI

1964 Grinnell Gallery, Detroit, MI

1962 Detroit Artists Market, Detroit, MI
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *United By One*, Buckham Gallery, Flint, MI

2020 *Detroit Collects: Selections of African American Art from Private Collections*, The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

2019 *Homemade*, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI
Landlord Colors: On Art, Economy, and Materiality, Cranbrook Art Museum, Detroit, MI

2018 *Making Home: Contemporary Works from the DIA*, The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

2014 *Another Look at Detroit (Part I and II)*, Marienne Boesky Gallery, Chelsea, NY, NY

2005 Contemporary Art Festival Nebula, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan

1994 *Still Working: Underknown Artists of Age in America*, Parsons School of Design Traveling exhibition

1987 *Signs, Times, Writings from the Wall*, Ongoing Michigan Artists Program, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Still Working, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., traveling exhibition

1986 *Charles McGee, Painter, Robert Murray, Sculptor*, Buckham Fine Arts Project, Flint, MI

1979 *Light Installations*, Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, Detroit, MI
At Cranbrook: Detroit Artists, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI

1976 *Works in Progress II*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

1975 Michigan Survey, San Jose Museum, San Jose, CA

1971 *Contemporary Black Artists in America*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

1969 *Contemporary Black American Artists*, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES) Tour
New Black Artists, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY
Seven Black Artists, Detroit Artists Market, Detroit, MI
12 Afro-American Artists, Lee Nordness Gallery, New York, NY and Washington, D.C.

1968 *The Witherspoon International Arts on Paper*, Witherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC
The Joan Miró Drawing Exhibition, Palacio de la Virreina, Barcelona, Spain

1967 *Art in U.S. Embassies,* Bangkok, Thailand
The Butler Annual, Butler Museum of American Art, Youngstown, OH

1965 *The Toledo Regional*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH

1961 *New Vistas in American Negro Art*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
The Butler Annual, Butler Museum of American Art , Youngstown, OH

1959 *Pennsylvania Academy Biennial*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2008 Eastern Michigan University ,Ypsilanti, MI

2007 Henry Ford Hospital,Detroit, MI
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

2004 Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

1994 Central State University, Wilberforce, OH

1993 Bishop Airport Authority, Flint, MI

1990s Karmanos Cancer Center, Detroit, MI

1990 Central Michigan Universtiy, Mount Pleasant, MI

1989 East Lansing City Hall, East Lansing, MI

1987 People Mover Mural, Broadway Station, Detroit, MI

1985 Northern High School, Detroit, MI

1984 Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

1982 Martin Luther King Community Center, Detroit, MI
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

1978 Michigan Foundation for the Arts, Midland, MI
Michigan Arthritis Foundation, Detroit, MI

1974 Urban Wall Mural Program, New Detroit, Inc., Detroit, MI

SELECTED HONORS

2008 Kresge Eminent Artist Award, The Kresge Foundation, Troy, MI

2006 Honorary Humanities Doctorate Degree, Marygrove College, Detroit, MI

2003 Honorary Fine Arts Doctorate Degree, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI

1989 Governor's Michigan Artist Award, Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan, Detroit, MI

1988 Individual Artist Grant, Michigan Council for the Arts, Detroit, MI
Studio Club Award, Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
Spirit of Detroit Award, Detroit City Council, Detroit, MI
Distinguished Service Award, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

1985 Individual Artist Grant, Michigan Council for the Arts, Detroit, MI

1978 Artist of the Year Award, Arts Foundation of Michigan, Detroit, MI

1968 Second Prize, Afro-American Exhibit, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
First Prize, Central Business District Association, Detroit, MI

1958 Donald Morgan Prize, Outstanding Painting, Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition, Detroit, MI

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia; Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History; Cronk Recreation Center; Dennos Museum; Detroit Board of Education; Detroit Children's Museum; Detroit General Hospital; Detroit Institute of Arts; Eastern Michigan Universtiy; The Engineering Society of Detroit; Holtzman & Silverman; Howard University; Links, Inc., Detroit, MI; Maccabees Corporation, Southfield; Michigan Bell Telephone, Detroit, MI; Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, P.L.C.; School of Graphics, Barcelona, Spain; Shaw-Walker Company; Smith, Hinchman & Grylls; University of Michigan; U.S. Embassy, Lima, Peru; The Willstead Art Gallery; Ypsilanti State Hospital