



Lamont Gallery Exhibition Archive

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EMMA AMOS Heroes and Folk

Monday, November 16, 2009 - Saturday, January 23, 2010
Reception: Friday, January 8, 2010, 6:30-8pm
Gallery Talk: Saturday, January 9, 2010, 10am

Lamont Gallery
Frederick B. Mayer Art Center
Phillips Exeter Academy
11 Tan Lane • Exeter, New Hampshire

603.777.3461
<http://www.exeter.edu/arts/8160.aspx>
Gallery Hours:
Mon. 1-5pm, Tues.-Sat. 9am-5pm
Closed school holidays/vacations

Emma Amos: Heroes and Folk November 16 – January 23, 2010

The Lamont Gallery presents *Emma Amos: Heroes and Folk*, an exhibition of paintings, print and woven works. Born in Georgia in 1938, Amos began painting and drawing at the age of six. She graduated from Antioch University in Ohio and in 1959 earned a degree in etching from the London Central School of Art. One year later, after moving to New York and becoming a teaching assistant at the Dalton School, Amos held her first solo art exhibition in Atlanta. In 1961, she began working as a designer/weaver, creating rugs for Dorothy Liebes, a renowned American textile designer and weaver. In 1964, Amos enrolled in New York University's graduate school and earned a degree in art education. She was also invited to join a group of black artists, known as Spiral, that included Romare Bearden, Norman Lewis and Charles Alston. In Spiral, Amos was the youngest and only female member.



In 1966, she earned her master's degree from NYU and began focusing on sewing, weaving, quilting and doing illustrations for Sesame Street

magazine. Eight years later, Amos began teaching at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, and in 1977, co-hosted the launch of *Show of Hands*, a TV crafts show for WGBH-TV in Boston, MA. From 1980 – 2008, she taught at the Mason Gross School of Art at Rutgers University, where she served as department chair for two years.

Amos' work has been shown throughout the U.S. and around the world. It is included in art collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the New Jersey and Minnesota state museums, and the Dade County and Newark museums. Solo and group exhibits were featured at the Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ; Civil Rights Museum, Birmingham, AL; Shifflett Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; The Pump House Gallery, Hartford, CT; Thomasville Cultural Center, Inc., Thomasville, GA; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD; Flomenhaft Gallery, New York, and many others.



Emma Amos, *Studio Air*, 2003, Acrylic on linen canvas with African fabric border

She received the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art of the College Art Association, and the 2003 James Van Der Zee Award.

“Many of my paintings, prints, and photographic installations mean to connect more than one form of knowledge or experience with the images within the work. I hope that the subjects of my paintings dislodge, question, and tweak prejudices, rules, and notions relating to art and who makes it, poses for it, shows it, and buys it. The work reflects my investigations into the otherness often seen by white male artists, along with the notion of desire, the dark body versus the white body, racism, and my wish to provoke more thoughtful ways of thinking and seeing. Yes, race, sex, class, and power privileges exist in the world of art,” Amos says.