

Griot features Holston's artistic tribute to the Underground Railroad

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Visitors to The Griot Museum of Black History can view an artistic expression of one of the most ambitious acts of defiance for the sake of freedom in black history.

The Griot is presenting *Color in Freedom: Journey Along the Underground Railroad*, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Joseph A. Holston.

Color in Freedom consists of four movements that track the flow of events in the lives of those who traveled along the Underground Railroad: The Unknown World, Living in Bondage – Life on the Plantation, The Journey of Escape and Color in Freedom.

Holston depicts music and dance through an exhilarating explosion of color, signaling the beginning of a life in freedom.

A painter and printmaker, Holston is best known for his use of vivid color, abstracted forms and expressive lines, reflecting his appreciation for musical composition. His abstract style draws from the Cubist tradition.

He has exhibited all over the United States, including the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum in Washington, D.C. Holston has been an artist-in-residence and a guest lecturer at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, and at the Experimental Printmaking Institute at Lafayette College in Easton, Penn.

He has work in the permanent collection of the Yale University Art Gallery, the Lyndon B. Johnson Library at the University of Texas, DePauw University, Howard University, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York.

Color in Freedom, on display through March 26, will be complemented with gallery talks, a jazz and poetry set, and art projects.

On Saturday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. The Griot will present Love Train, an evening of jazz and poetry featuring Marvin F. Cockrell and Focus.

Next Saturday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m., The Griot will host Friends of African American Art Collectors Circle, in collaboration with the Saint Louis Art Museum. This event features a gallery talk, presentation on the Underground Railroad and lunch.

On February 26 and March 12 at 12:30 p.m., guests can create their own Underground Railroad quilt squares at Color My Freedom. The quilt will be placed on display at The Griot.

All programs require pre-paid reservations.

Color in Freedom was originated at the University of Maryland University College in Adelphi, Md. and is organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.