

DALE WASHINGTON

FINDING HOME The Portland Years

June 4 - July 28, 2017



Self Portrait with Book, Feb 2014

Gallery Hours

M - F 10am - 2pm

Sunday 9am - 1pm

OR by appointment

Sheldon Hurst, Curator 503.748.9419

ARTREACH GALLERY

at First Congregational UCC

1126 Park Avenue

Portland, OR 97205

www.uccportland.org/artreach



Waiting for Dinner, Blanchet House, Jan 2014

FINDING HOME

Facebook is a phenomenon of our young century. On my home page, I present myself and receive messages from “friends” around the world: Europe, the Middle East, South America, Africa, Australia, Japan, China, Korea. And I have chosen to relate particularly to those who identify with the arts in some way: photographers, painters, printmakers, sculptors, filmmakers, poets. At my fingertips, there they are--people making art and doing things that add to the creative life of our collective communities.

On a wonderful day in spring a year ago, some art on my Facebook page made me stop and consider. The drawings were bold in color and form, focused in subject matter, strong in linear play, and containing a bit of suggestive power that opened me to new levels of awareness. I responded to the artist, and discovered that Dale Washington lived in Portland, having moved here from Chicago five years earlier. Since I had lived in Chicago during my high school and college years, Dale and I shared a common city in our pasts as well as in our present. I could see that we also were in contact with many of the same artists on Facebook. Who was this man? I wondered.

After spending time chatting on Facebook, we arranged to meet in person at the Marathon Taverna on Burnside Avenue. I will never forget that day: after a brief greeting, he spread out his drawings. These were works he had done during his

“Portland Years,” he said. I was impressed. We met again and there were more drawings. It was evident that his subject matter had to do with a particular segment of life here in Portland: Blanchet House, Rescue Mission, Sisters of the Road Cafe, Salvation Army -- and Burnside Avenue. Sunrises and sunsets, waiting lines, mealtimes, sleeping halls. Self-portraits and portraits of others.

Dale Washington knew these places and people and experiences because he lived among them. He came to Portland and made his home here, as have any of us. But he made it initially as a houseless man on the streets, where he nevertheless found places to be and friends with whom to share. And where he drew. His “Portland Years” drawings are insights into his personal journey in finding home. I am grateful he has chosen to share them with us.

Street Roots is the newspaper of Portland’s streets. Its mission states: “[We] create income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty by producing a newspaper and other media that are catalysts for individual and social change.” Often it includes poems by people who have traveled a journey similar to Dale Washington’s. Joanne Zuhl, Managing Editor at the paper, directed me to Cole Merkel, Vendor Program Director, whom I asked to select several poems on the theme of “Finding Home” to print in connection with this exhibition. His choices are thoughtful and meaningful additions to Washington’s art. The artist and the poets offer their experiences at a deep and meaningful level. An encounter with them provides the possibility of thinking anew, and differently, about the experience of homelessness in this city we all share.

Finding Home can be a challenge. All too often it entails an enormous physical, spiritual and emotional struggle. While this exhibition offers an opportunity to engage with the art and poetry of those whose process of “finding home” includes the experience of houselessness, it also raises a significant question: How do we respond?

-- Dr. Sheldon Hurst, Curator

DALE WASHINGTON

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The Power of Creation is the Act of Doing

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Los Angeles, but I grew up on the south side of Chicago. I said at six years old that I was going to be an artist. I stuck with it through every grade and every step I've ever gone through with family and relationships. This is my life's work. I feel other people went to school to become artists, and I went to school as one because I had made up my mind at such an early age. I was raised in a foster home, but I learned that my biological mother was an artist. I went to Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio and graduated in 1986 with a B.A. in advertising. It was only a means to an end because I decided I needed to make a little money until I was ready to show professionally. I worked in advertising and continued to do my work and started showing professionally 20 years ago. I've taught in the Chicago Public Schools, the Artist Resources in Teaching (ART) program, Hyde Park Art Center, and I finished an after-school program on the west side at Catalyst Charter School. I moved to Portland in 2011 because I needed a change. I could not find a place to live, so I stayed on the street, then in various places like Blanchet House, Rescue Mission and other places. Finally I got a home this year. And I have my first show in Portland at the ArtReach Gallery.

EDUCATION

Columbus College of Art and Design.

Attended Columbia College of Art and Design

Attended University of Wisconsin, Madison

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Parker, Daniel Texidor. *African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond*.

Chicago: Daniel Texidor Parker, 2004.

Thompson, Lowell. *African Americans in Chicago*. Charleston, SC:

Arcadia Publishing, 2012.



Self-Portrait, Prisoner Series, #774574-49 Bunk, Sept 2013

FINDING HOME SIX POEMS

from StreetRoots, selected by Cole Merkel

HOME

By Aileen McPherson

Home what are you, really?
Are you a place of origin?
The building where I live?
Or merely a congenial environment,
In which I reside with others?

Maybe HOME is more than
Its definitions, maybe just maybe
Home is spiritual, it's religious, personal,
We make our home we are not and
Should not be defined by our home.

Home is for me
H. Humans Housing Humanely
O. Observing Optimism Over Obstacles
M. Maintain Mutual Mastery
E. Effectively Existing Equally
Home is always what love makes it to be.

STREET MUSIC

By Maddy Brown-Clark

The music of the streets
Is both bitter and sweet
Both freedom and desperation
Both sadness and elation.
Just another tip sir
And the street musician
Can get some smokes
And a cold bottle of coke
To wet his tongue
So he can sing his way
To a new home.

A BETTER HOME

By Ron Sanford

Woohoo! I dreamt of this day for so long
pictures remind me how weak I'd become,
How far I'd gone... It would take a novel
to fully describe war stories, and
the things better left unsaid

Instead I'm focused on the future with hope renewed
I learned long ago not to deride social programs
and help for the poor. But for the grace of God
go I, what can I say? For me a better home
means better health as I live one day at a time.

THE GIFT OF LOVE

By Paulette Bade

I look out my window
And I see
The gift of love.

There's a park right across the street
With a lot of homeless people
Trying to make it with their animals
It's sad, but true. There's still the gift of love.
They're laughing and joking around and sharing their food
Trying to get along.

To know that I have
A home and P.K. my kitty
I have the gift of love

I've been homeless twice.
And it's hard. It takes your dignity to another level
—all the way down
But now there are awesome people in the building.
I've been there two years
We try to help each other

To wake up
And know people that care about and love me
And help me day by day when I sell StreetRoots
People that come by just to say hi
I have the gift of love.

A TRUE GIFT

By Tina Drake and April Harrison

Many people talk about what a gift is.

Let me tell you.

A gift can be many things,

be it clothes, food, or more.

Recently me and my partner

gained the most wonderful gift

I could dream of getting.

What is that gift many ask.

Comfort, security, peace of mind

maybe? Yes and no. That gift

was so much more.

The keys to my own home.

HOME SWEET HOME

By Michone Nettles

They say home is where

Your heart is

I say ole chap, That home

is where your feet are.

And you have a shove-a

Lay-too, for travel.

Shove one foot and lay

The other. Your mobile

Home.

CHECKLIST

2011 Salvation Series:

Men Sleeping, Feb. 2011

Men Watching TV, Jan. 2011

2013 Sunrise, Portland, OR, Nov. 2013

Prisoner Series:

Self Portrait, Nov 2013

Self-Portrait, Nov 2013

#774574-49 Bunk, Sept 2013

Potluck, Christmas Dinner, Dec 2013

Potluck, Christmas Dinner 2013

Sunrise, Portland, Sept 2013

Sunrise, Burnside, Portland, Nov 2013

Sunrise Portland, Sept 2013

Sunrise Portland, Dec 2013

Dinner, Blanchet House, 2013

Self-Portrait, 2013

2014 Blanchet House

Waiting for Dinner, Jan 2014

Waiting for Dinner, Jan 2014

Dinner, Jan 2014

Dinner, Jan 2014

Dinner, Jan 2014

Eating Dinner, Jan 2014

The Seating, Dinner, Jan 2014

Pear, Apple, Orange Still Life, Feb 2014

Pear, Apple, Orange Still Life, Feb 2014

Self-Portrait with Book, Feb 2014

Self-Portrait, March 2014

Taking My Picture, Oct 2014

Taking My Picture, Oct 2014

Taking My Picture, Sept 2014

Taking My Picture, Oct 2014

Taking My Picture, Sept 2014

Taking My Picture, Sept 2014

- 2014 Taking My Picture, 2014
Taking My Picture, 2014
Vouchers, 2014
In Line, Potluck Christmas Dinner, Jan. 2014
Rain in December, 2014
November Sunrise, 2014
Rain in December, 2014
December Night, 2014
Farm Series
 Self Portrait at Sunset, July 2014
 Self-Portrait at Sunset, July 2014
 Self-Portrait at Sunset, July 2014
 Self-Portrait at Sunset, July 2014
 Sunset, May 2014
 Sunset, May 2014
 Sunset, June 2014
 Sunrise, Aug 2014
 From the Garden, Aug 2014
 Star Before Sunrise, Aug 2014
- 2015 Day in the Park, Potluck, July 2015
Sisters of the Road Cafe, July 2015
Morning, Jan 2015
Morning Moon, 2015
Rain, Jan 2015
- 2016 Farmer's Market, 2016
Farmer's Market, 2016
Lonesome Guitarist 2016
Blues Guitarist, 2016
Blues Guitarist, 2016
Seated Nude, 2016
Standing Nude, 2016
Summer Self-Portrait, Aug 2016
Summer Self-Portrait, Aug 2016
Potluck in the Park, 2016
Potluck in the Park, 2016



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Farm Series, Sunset, May 2014