



Smithsonian  
*Anacostia Museum and Center  
for African American History and Culture*

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**New Exhibition**  
**Selected Works by William H. Smith**

On view at The Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, June 7 – Dec. 31, 2004

This exhibition spotlights 12 pieces -- including paintings, lithographs and a scratch drawing -- produced during a 65-year period. The earliest work is a 1939 self-portrait done in oil on board when the artist was 18. The most recent work is "Artist in White Hat" done in Conte crayon on paper in 2004. Four of the exhibited works were used on the set of television's "Cosby" show including "Lady in Black and Gold," a 1954 portrait of his wife. Smith's works are part of Bill Cosby's personal collection.

Smith's pieces are intended as visual stories built on memories of people and places central to his life. Perhaps his most autobiographical statement is "Fourth of July at the Maryland Home for Friendless Colored Children." In this 1980 lithograph Smith vividly recalls a day from his childhood when his father, a caretaker at the institution, stood in the doorway and watched as the artist and other boys celebrated the national holiday with great excitement. Smith remembers that home as the place where his passion for art began to flourish.

Born in 1921 in Maryland, Smith was a silver medal winner at the 1939 New York World's Fair and creator of a widely acclaimed mural of noted African Americans on the walls of Douglass High School Baltimore, a piece completed when Smith was a teenaged student there. A former feature writer for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Smith lives in Bristol, PA. The Curator is Robert Hall of the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture.

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, 1901 Fort Place, SE, Washington, DC. Open daily, except Dec. 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Dec. 25. Free. For group tours, call (202) 287-3369.  
[www.anacostia.si.edu](http://www.anacostia.si.edu)

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