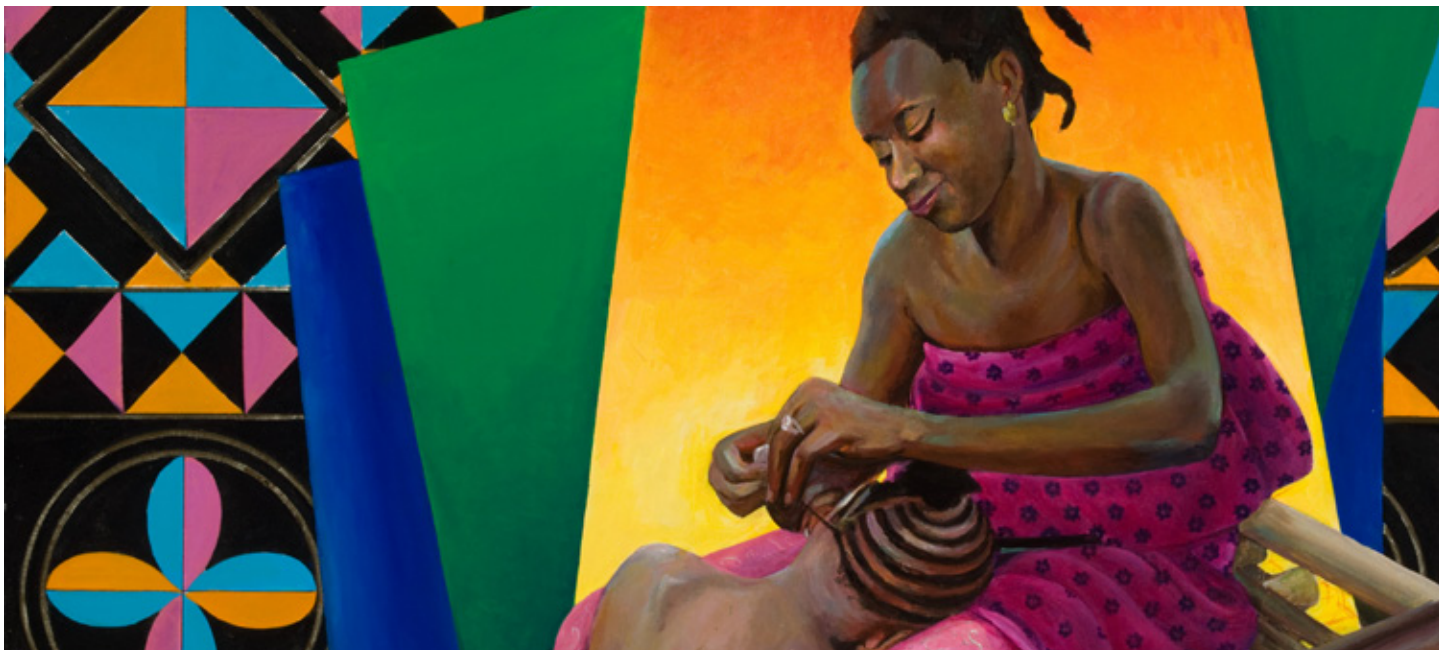


Lois Mailou Jones

A Life in Vibrant Color



Lois Mailou Jones, *Mere du Senegal*, Acrylic on canvas, 1985

This exhibition examines the prolific, seven-decade career of Lois Mailou Jones (1905-1998), a pioneering and accomplished mid-century artist and teacher who remains a source of inspiration to many artists. Her oeuvre remains a substantial and remarkable contribution to the world of American art.

Comprised of approximately 64 works, *Lois Mailou Jones: A Life in Vibrant Color* spans Jones' career from the late Harlem Renaissance to her contemporary synthesis of African, Caribbean, American and African-American iconography. Included are items from the artist's estate—paintings, drawings

and textile designs—as well as prominent works from public and private collections. Developed by the Mint Museum of Art and the Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noël Trust, this exhibition marks the first time the artist's estate has released many of its major holdings for public presentation.

Born in Boston in 1905, Jones received excellent academic training at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She began her career at a time when racial prejudices and gender discrimination were pervasive features in American culture. Despite these barriers, Jones triumphed with a long and productive life devoted to her craft. She received recognition in

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Lois Mailou Jones, *Jennie*, Oil on canvas, 1943



Lois Mailou Jones, *Dans un Café à Paris (Leigh Whipper)*, Oil on canvas, 1939



Lois Mailou Jones, *Mob Victim (meditation)*, Oil on canvas, 1944

her lifetime through exhibitions and representation in important museum collections. Jones also successfully navigated the external and intra-group pressures to be an exponent of her culture's social struggle. She mined protest traditions and racial apologia resulting in powerful psychological portraits including *Mob Victim* (1945) and *Jennie* (1943).

Over her career as a painter, Jones explored a wealth of styles and subject matter. Her skillful observation and inspiration from nature is revealed in colorful landscapes of Martha's Vineyard, winding streets and verdant countryside of Northern France, as well as traditional still lifes with fruits and flowers. The influence of philosopher Alain Locke, who encouraged Jones to look at the relevance of African arts as a source of inspiration for artists of color, is also clearly evident in many of her works, such as *The Ascent of Ethiopia* (1932).

While not indifferent to the historical aspects of her racial heritage, Jones managed to bring forth a body of work that

allowed her to expand beyond merely illustrating racial and cultural heritage. Her marriage in 1952 to noted Haitian graphic artists Louis Vergniaud Pierre-Noel instigated a change in the subject matter and palette of her paintings. Her frequent trips to Haiti inspired paintings that display a marked fascination with Haiti and its people, markets, countryside and spiritual traditions. Throughout the sweep of her 70 years as a painter, Jones continued to produce figurative and narrative paintings that explore both personal and social themes.

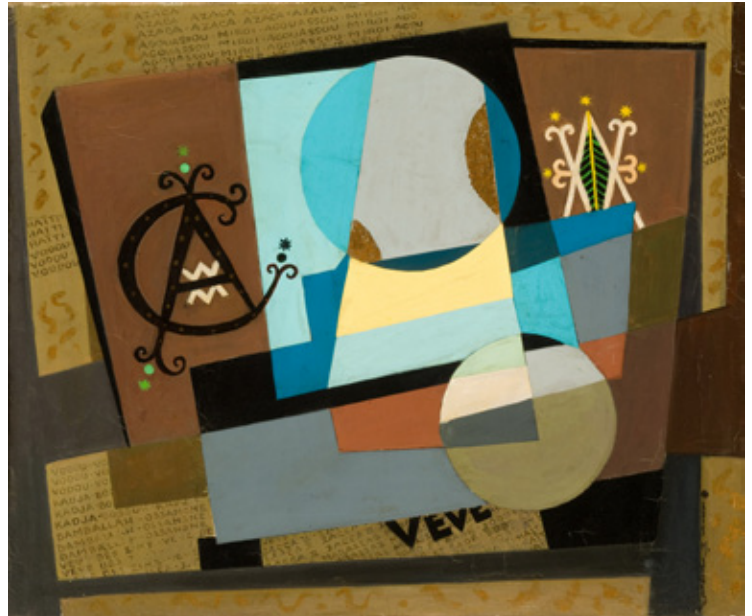
Lois Mailou Jones: A Life in Vibrant Color is developed by the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC. A full-color exhibition catalogue published by the Mint Museum of Art including essays by Dr. Edmund Barry Gaither, director of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston; Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims, curator of the Museum of Art and Design, NYC; Dr. Cheryl Finley, associate professor of Art History, Cornell University, and an interview with artist and student of Lois Mailou Jones, David Driskell.

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Lois Mailou Jones, *Paris Rooftops, Monmartre*, Acrylic on canvas, 1965



Lois Mailou Jones, *Voudou Symbols*, Mixed media, 1962

EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

Number of Works

Approximately 62 paintings, drawings, and textile designs

Curator

Carla Hanzal, curator of Contemporary Art, Mint Museum of Art

Organized By

Mint Museum of Art and Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noël Trust

Requirements

High security, 250-375 running feet (space requirements may vary)

Participation Fee

\$23,000 plus outgoing shipping (please inquire for discounted fee from July 2012 to September 2012, and possible tour extension)

Booking Period

12 weeks

Publication

Exhibition catalogue and educational guide

Shipping

IA&A makes all arrangements, exhibitors pay outgoing costs within the contiguous US

Contact

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Exhibitions Manager
bethp@artsandartists.org

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Left: Lois Mailou Jones, *Design for Cretonne # 13*, Tempera on paper, c.1932

Right: Lois Mailou Jones, *Design for Cretonnes #8*, Tempera on paper, c.1928

About the Curator

As the curator of Contemporary Art at the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, North Carolina, Carla Hanzal initiated the *VantagePoint* contemporary art series and four major exhibitions including: *Revelation: A Fresh Look at Contemporary Collection*; *Crosscurrents: Art, Craft and Design in North Carolina*; and *Contemporary, Cool and Collected*. She was also the project manager for the *Chuck Close Prints* exhibition and *Secret Games: Wendy Ewald Collaborative Works with Children 1969-1999*. Previously, Hanzal was curator of the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (1997-2002), where she originated 40 exhibitions featuring the work of regional, national, and international artists.

As Director of Exhibitions at the International Sculpture Center (1990-1997), Hanzal coordinated major international exhibitions including the *Mark Rothko Retrospective*; the *David Smith Retrospective*; and the *Peter Voulkos Retrospective*. Hanzal frequently writes about artists, arts policy and public art for publications. She was recently a guest curator for a touring exhibition of contemporary sculpture, *Material Terrain: A Sculptural Exploration of Landscape and Place*, which was presented at 12 museums in the U.S. from 2005 through 2008 and circulated by International Arts & Artists.