

ROBERT BLACKBURN

& Modern American Printmaking

Through February 28, 2021

Robert Blackburn (1920–2003) made a tremendous impact on printmaking in the United States. Over a career that spanned six decades, Blackburn's generous spirit, avant-garde ideas, and technical expertise affirmed printmaking as a fine art, while boldly pushing the practice in new directions. An influential teacher, celebrated collaborator, and Master Printer, Blackburn embraced democratic ideals in the creative process and promoted access to art. In 1947, he founded a printmaking workshop as a welcoming and inclusive space where artists of all levels could learn and create together.

Robert Blackburn & Modern American Printmaking follows the trajectory of Blackburn's career. The exhibition traces his artistic evolution in the context of the creative community with whom he engaged throughout his life.



Robert Blackburn, American (1920–2003). *Red Inside*, 1972. Color Woodcut, 12 x 11 ½ inches. Nelson/Dunks Collection. Photo courtesy of the David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park. Photograph by Greg Staley.

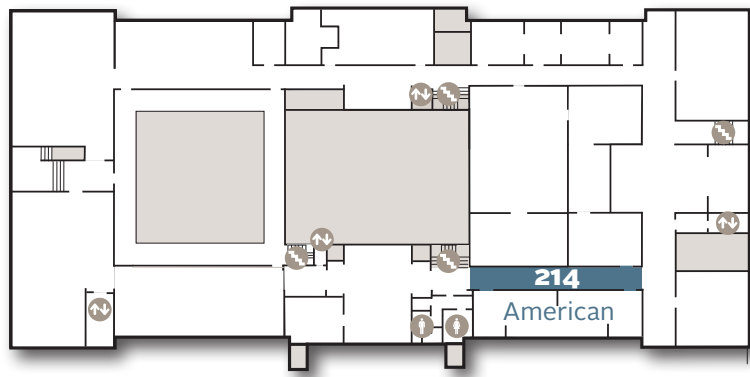


Robert Blackburn & Modern American Printmaking is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and curated by Deborah Cullen, in cooperation with The Trust for Robert Blackburn and The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts' Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop Program. This exhibition is supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and funding from the Smithsonian's Provost Office.

In Kansas City, the exhibition is supported by Evelyn Craft Belger and Richard Belger, Hallmark Cards, Inc., and the Robert Lehman Foundation.

This exhibition is presented in two locations: Gallery 214 in the Nelson-Atkins Building and Gallery L8 in the Bloch Building. Robert Blackburn's early career is on display in Gallery 214, while his later career and legacy are shown in Gallery L8.

To experience the full exhibition, we invite you to visit both spaces.



NELSON-ATKINS BUILDING | Level 2 | Gallery 214

BLOCH BUILDING
Lobby Level
Gallery L8



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Join at the Info Desk, Bloch Lobby.

Robert Blackburn (fourth from left) and others in the workshop. June 18, 1959. Photograph by Louis Dienes.



Robert Blackburn, American (1920–2003).
Girl in Red, 1950. Color lithograph, 18 ¼ x 12 ½ inches. The Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art.



Robert Blackburn, American (1920–2003).
Faux Pas (Unfinished Note), about 1960. Color Lithograph, 22 x 16 ½ inches. Nelson/Dunks Collection. Photograph by Karl Peterson.