

University of North Carolina at Wilmington, NC, Features Works by Dorothy Gillespie

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, NC, is presenting *Dorothy Gillespie: Portraits and Self-Portraits*, on view in the CAB Art Gallery, through Sept. 1, 2023.

UNCW's CAB Art Gallery is partnering with the Dorothy Gillespie Foundation and the Radford University Art Museum, to showcase portraits and self-portraits by 20th century American Artist, Dorothy Gillespie. This one-of-a-kind exhibition is an opportunity to view never before seen Dorothy Gillespie portraits and self-portraits.

Gillespie was well known as a painter, sculptor, and installation artist whose work encompassed many significant 20th-century trends in art, including abstract expressionism, decorative abstraction, site-specific installations, the women's movement, and art in public spaces. She pioneered joyful new directions for metal sculpture and is best known for large-scale, colorfully painted arrangements of cut aluminum strips that radiate, undulate, or curl like giant arrangements of ribbon, enchanted towers, or bursting fireworks.

On display will be portraits of Gillespie's colleagues and friends, along with many unseen self-portraits, and the iconic aluminum sculpture, "Summer Jazz", inspired by many visits to see "Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway.

In conjunction with the CAB Art Gallery's *Dorothy Gillespie: Portraits and Self-Portraits* exhibition, Cape Fear Community College's Wilma W. Daniels Gallery will host an exhibition, *Dorothy Gillespie*, featuring a retrospective of her artworks, on view through Aug. 25, 2023. Other Gillespie artworks will also be exhibited around the Wilmington area throughout the summer of 2023.



One of many self Portraits by Dorothy Gillespie

Caldwell College, Caldwell, NY 1976; an Allied Professions Award, Virginia Society; The American Institute of Architects, Richmond, VA, 1986; Distinguished Alumni Award, Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, MD 1983; Outstanding Services Award, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, AR, 1983; and, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art in 2001.

She also received the Gala 8 "Distinguished Woman" Award at Birmingham Southern College in 1987 honoring women who have made "lasting contributions to our society in the fields of endeavor ranging from the arts, medicine, philanthropy, journalism, government, sports, entertainment and business".

In addition to her demanding studio work, Gillespie served as a Distinguished Professor of Art, Radford University, Radford, VA, 1997-99; on the Board of Trustees, Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland 1996-99; on the Board of Trustees, Maitland Art Center, Maitland, FL 1996-99; and on the Art in Public Places Committee, Broward Cultural Affairs Council, June 1993-June 1994; and as Visiting Artist, Radford University, Radford, VA, 1981-83 where she initiated the University's permanent art collection through a gift of her own work and where her work is now archived, also she was a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow from 1985-1993. During that period, she made week-long visits to small private colleges throughout the country and gave public lectures, coached and taught young artists. Early in her career, Gillespie contributed to the women's art movement through her work at Artist in Residence, Women's Interart Center, New York, NY 1972 and her lecture series at the New School for Social Research, New York, NY 1977.

Gillespie is the subject of numerous reviews, critical essays, film and radio interviews and a book *Dorothy Gillespie* published by the Radford University Foundation Press.

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Gillespie passed away in 2012.

For more information about the Dorothy Gillespie documentary, please contact the Dorothy Gillespie Foundation at (<https://www.dorothygillespie.com/contact>). For more information about the CAB Art Gallery exhibition, please visit (<https://uncw.edu/cabartgallery/>).



Portrait by Dorothy Gillespie

Art in Bloom Gallery will have original Gillespie artworks on view and available for purchase. Additional venues showcasing Gillespie artworks through August, as part of their permanent art collections are: The Arboretum, the Cameron Art Museum, Thalian Hall, and the Wilson Center. A brochure is available at these locations with more information regarding the artworks being shown at these venues.

Dorothy Gillespie's illustrious career in art spanned over 70 years during which time she created, exhibited, and sold her artwork nationally and internationally. Gillespie, born in Roanoke VA, declared early her intention to become an artist. She studied art at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, then moved to New York City where she studied at the Art Student's League of New York and the Stanley William Hayter's Atelier 17.

Among her many honors, Gillespie received The Alice Baber Art Fund, Inc. Grant Award; a Doctor of Pedagogy, Niagara University, Niagara Falls, NY 1990; a Doctor of Fine Arts (Honoris Causa)

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be June 24th for the July 2023 issue and July 24 for the August 2023 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).

WAA Wilmington Art Association



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