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Hope College

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Abstract

Lamidi Olonade Fakeye was born in Nigeria in 1928. He was born into a family of woodcarvers and was a fifth-generation carver. His father and older brother taught him to carve. He left home for his education and at the age of twenty met Father Kevin Carroll, who hired him as a carver. Later he was apprenticed to a famous woodcarver, George Arowoogun. Fakeye became a teacher and independent artist, having several apprentices of his own. In 1960, his work became known in America. In 1973, he carved two 12’ doors for the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. An exhibition of sixty of Fakeye’s carvings was shown at Western Michigan University in 1987. Hope College had an exhibition of his work in 1996 and also published his autobiography in conjunction with this show. The collection consists primarily of correspondence, photographs, and final manuscript of Fakeye’s book, “A Retrospective Exhibition and Autobiography,” published in 1996.

Accession No: H11-1771
Provenance: Hope College Art Department
Donor: Hope College Art Department
Photographs: 14 images
Processed by: Elaine Bruins, March 2011

Biography

Lamidi Olonade Fakeye was born in Nigeria in 1928. He was born into a family of woodcarvers and was a fifth-generation carver. His father and older brother taught him to carve. He left home for his education and at the age of twenty met Father Kevin Carroll, who hired him as a carver. Later he was apprenticed to a famous woodcarver, George Arowoogun. Fakeye became a teacher and independent artist, having several apprentices of his own. In 1960, his work became known in America. In 1973, he carved two 12’ doors for the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. An exhibition of sixty of Fakeye’s carvings was shown at Western Michigan University in 1987. Hope College had an exhibition of his work in 1996 and also published his autobiography in conjunction with this show.

Fakeye passed away in 2009.

Scope and Content


Container List

Biography, 1928-2009
Computer Disks
Manuscript and Notes (2 folders)
Final copy of Manuscript of book
Photographs, Book Illustrations (10 images)
Brochure for Kellogg Expert in Residence, 1999
Correspondence re: Art Show and Book, 1995-1999
Exhibition, DePree Art Center, October & November, 1996
Photographs, Wood Carvings, n.d. (4 images)
Smithsonian Show, 1999