About the Artist
CALVIN BURNETT

Born in 1921, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Burnett is an African-American artist, illustrator, and art educator. He graduated from the Massachusetts School of Art in 1942, and received his MFA from Boston University in 1960. He has taught at a number of institutions in the northeastern United States, including the Massachusetts College of Art and the DeCordova Museum.

His work has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States, in galleries and museums including the Smithsonian Institution and the Brooklyn Museum.

Massasoit Community College and the Akillian Gallery is pleased to have on exhibit here today, three pieces that had been included in a group invitational exhibition to honor Martin Luther King, entitled KKKKK, organized by S.I.T.E., Smithsonian Institution of Traveling Exhibition Service. This exhibit travelled from 2002 to 2004, and was curated by Edmund Barry Gaither, Director of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Inc. in Boston.

At age 84, Calvin no longer creates due to serious health problems. His last works were completed in the late 1990’s. Calvin work has the ability to keep the viewer thinking about issues of race, prejudice and sexism - still in this day and age, 20 years later. Thanks to the efforts of Pat Kellogg and John Wojahowitz, Calvin’s art is available for public exhibition.

Calvin Burnett is recognized in numerous publications including:

1999 Falk, Peter Hastings Who Was Who in American Art 1564-1975 3 Vols 3724
1985 Falk, Peter Hastings Who Was Who in American Art Artists
1976 Driskell, David C * Two Centuries of Black American Art
1971 Atkinson, J Edward Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art