

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Queen Brooks

PERSON

Brooks, Queen, 1943-

Alternative Names: Queen Brooks;

Life Dates: April 23, 1943-

Place of Birth: Columbus, Ohio, USA

Residence: Columbus, OH

Occupations: Visual Artist

Biographical Note

Artist Queen Brooks was born in Columbus, Ohio on April 23, 1943 to Hattie Owens and Pomp Brooks. She graduated from East High School in 1971. After working for Central Ohio Transit Authority, Brooks apprenticed under Columbus photographer Kojo Kamau and began working at the J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center as an arts and crafts instructor in 1980. While at the Ashburn Youth Center, Brooks discovered the art of pyrography or wood burning. Brooks then went back to school and graduated from Ohio State University with her B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees in art in 1990 and 1992, respectively. In 1993, Brooks won the Lila Wallace, Reader's Digest International Artist Award, which granted her a residency in the French port city of Abidjan in the Republic of the Ivory Coast, West Africa. Brooks then served as an adjunct professor in art instruction at Otterbein University from 1995 to 2002 and then at Ohio Dominican University from 2002 to 2006. In 2008, Brooks was hired as the lead artist for the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Art in the House program.

Her work has been featured in Essence magazine and twice in the International Review of African American Art, and other publications. Brooks also created the portal entrance for the Kwanzaa Playground, Ohio's first African-centered playground in Columbus, Ohio. Through a project grant from the Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Brooks, working with middle and high school students, designed and painted a mural at Columbus' Krumm park area.

Brooks' art has been exhibited at numerous sites throughout Ohio, and her works are in collections across the United States and in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa.

Her work is among collections held in the collections of the Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio Dominican and Otterbein universities as well as the King Art Complex,

Columbus, Ohio.

Brooks has also won numerous awards for her artwork, including the Ohioana Career Award in 2008, the highest recognition bestowed on an artist in the state of Ohio. She has earned distinction the Arts Freedom Award designee and an Arts Midwest National Endowment of the Arts Award in 2004 and 1994, respectively. Brooks also won the Excellence in the Arts Award from Ohio State University.

Queen Brooks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 3, 2012.

Related Entries

The Ohio State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.F.A.

The Ohio State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.F.A.

Central State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Garfield Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Mary's South [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Dominic's Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Garfield Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

East High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Dominic's Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

The University of Rio Grande [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Art Professor

Kojo Photo Art Studio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to ?]

Photography Assistant

J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to 1992]

Arts and Crafts Specialist

Art Genesis [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to 1998]

Owner

Otterbein University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1968 to ?]

Art Instructor/Adjunct Professor

Ohio Dominican University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2002 to 2006]

Art Instructor/Adjunct Professor

Greater Columbus Arts Council [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Lead Artist

Creative Women of Color [MEMBEROf]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Parliamentarian

Ohiana [MEMBEROf]
[from 1987 to 1991]

Art for Community Expression (ACE) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1975 to 1980]

Friends of Art for Community Enrichment, FACE [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member