Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Georgette Seabrooke Powell

Powell, Georgette Seabrooke, 1916-

Alternative Names: Georgette Seabrooke Powell;

Life Dates: August 2, 1916-December 27, 2011

Place of Birth: Charleston, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Palm Coast, FL

Occupations: Art Therapist; Painter; Nonprofit Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Art therapist, non-profit chief executive, and painter Georgette Ernestine Seabrooke Powell was born on August 2, 1916 in Charleston, South Carolina to Anna and George Seabrooke. Powell grew up in the
Yorkville neighborhood of New York City. In the 1930s, she graduated from Washington Irving High School in New York City. She also studied art at the Harlem Art Workshop and the Harlem Community Art Center. In 1933, Powell began majoring in art at Cooper Union Art School in New York, and during this time she was selected to be a part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Federal Arts Project.

As an artist through the WPA from 1936-1939 she created murals at Queens General Hospital and Harlem Hospital as well as and did some public art. In 1959, Powell's family moved to Washington, D.C., where she became immersed in Washington's arts society. Studying art therapy in the early 1960s, at the Metropolitan Mental Health Skills Center and the Washington School of Psychiatry, Powell became a registered arts therapist through the American Art Therapy Association. She taught art to promote skill building and self-esteem with mentally ill patients at D.C. General Hospital’s Department of Psychiatry. In 1973, Powell earned her B.F.A. degree from Howard University. In 1975, she founded and directed the Tomorrow’s Art World Center, Inc. to assist young aspiring artists. Powell was a member and President of the District of Columbia Art Association between 1974 and 1998.

Powell’s artistry appeared in seventy-two major art exhibits between 1933 and 2003. She exhibited throughout the United States and in Venezuela, Nigeria and Senegal. Her exhibits have included: a one woman show, “Radiance and Reality,” which she showcased at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington; and a 1995 show, “Art Changes Things” which was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute. Her works hang in distinguished permanent collections across the country. An example is "Grandmother’s Birthday," which was acquired by and hangs at the Johnson Publishing Company in Chicago, Illinois.

Georgette Ernestine Seabrooke Powell resides in Palm
Coast, Florida and enjoys the company of her three children, grand-children and great-grandchildren.

Georgette Seabrooke Powell passed away on December 27, 2011 at the age of 95.

Georgette Ernestine Seabrooke Powell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 8, 2006.

Related Entries

Washington Irving High School [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

Fordham University [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

B.F.A. degree

Turtle Bay Music School [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 6 Lillie D. Blake School [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

Cooper Union [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington School of Psychiatry [STUDENT OF]
[from ? to ?]

United States Works Progress Administration [EMPLOYEE OF]
[from 1936 to 1939]
District of Columbia General Hospital [employeeOf]
[from 1963 to 1966]

Assistant Art Therapist

Powell's Lodge Art Studio [employeeOf]
[from 1966 to 1969]

Founder

District of Columbia Department of Recreation [employeeOf]
[from 1969 to 1978]

Therapeutic Recreational Therapist

Tomorrow's World Art Theater [employeeOf]
[from 1969 to ?]

Founder and Director

American Art Therapy Association [memberOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Registered Art Therapist

American Art League [memberOf]
[from 1969 to ?]

Member

Howard Theater Foundation [memberOf]
[from 1995 to ?]

Board Member

National Conference of Artists [memberOf]
[from 1990 to ?]

DC Mental Health Association [memberOf]
[from 1990 to ?]