

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Kevin Cole

PERSON

Cole, Kevin , 1960-

Alternative Names: Cole, Kevin , 1960-

Life Dates: January 19, 1960-

Place of Birth: Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Residence: Fairburn, Georgia

Occupations: Art Professor; Mixed Media Artist

Biographical Note

Art professor and mixed media artist Kevin E. Cole was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on January 19, 1960 to Jessie and Sam Cole, Jr. He received his B.S. degree in art education from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1982; his M.A. degree in art education a year later, and his M.F.A degree in drawing from Northern Illinois University in 1984.

Cole began his art career as an art teacher at Camp Creek Middle School in College Park, Georgia in 1985. At the same time, he also became an adjunct professor at Georgia State University's School of Art and Design where he remained until 1998. In 1990, Cole was chairperson of the visual and performing arts magnet program of Tri-Cities High School in East Point, Georgia until 1994. Later, in 2003, he became the chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Westlake High School where created the school's first arts program. Cole's artwork is well known for including imagery of neckties as symbols of power and emphasizes the relationship between color and music, particularly jazz, blues, hip-hop, and gospel. He incorporates patterns and textures from traditional African cloths to speak to human conditions and behaviors.

In 1994, Cole was commissioned by the Coca-Cola Company to create a fifteen story mural celebrating the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. The mural took two years to create and was a little over 800 square feet. He has been featured in "Who's Who in Education" and received the Award of Excellence for Public Art by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

Cole was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 15, 2007.

Related Entries

Cole, Sr., Sam [GRANDCHILDOf]
Paternal Grandfather

Cole, Mable [GRANDCHILDOf]
Paternal Grandmother

McGlounce, Jessie [GRANDCHILDOf]
Maternal Grandfather

McGlounce, Mariah [GRANDCHILDOf]
Maternal Grandmother

Cole, Rosie [SIBLINGOf]
Sister

Cole, Skyler [PARENTOf]
Son

Jones, Marie [SIBLINGOf]
Sister

Cole, Jessie Mae [CHILDOf]
Mother

Cole, James [SIBLINGOf]
Brother

Cole, Jr., Sam [CHILDOf]
Father

Thomas, Sammia [SIBLINGOf]
Sister

Cole, Nia [PARENTOf]
Daughter

Washington, Vera [SIBLINGOf]
Sister

Mack, Ruthie [SIBLINGOf]
Sister

Pine Bluff High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1978]

University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1982]

B.S.

University of Illinois [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1983]

M.A.

Northern Illinois University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to 1984]

MFA

Georgia State University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to 1998]

Adjunct Professor

Tri-Cities High School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1994]

Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Program

North Springs Charter High School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1998 to 2003]

Chairman of the Visual Arts Magnet Department

Westlake High School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to ?]

Chairmen of the Fine Arts Department

Virginia Center for the Arts [MEMBEROf]
Board Member

National Council for the Arts [MEMBEROf]
Member

National Art Education Association [MEMBEROf]
Member