

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marva Lee Pitchford- Jolly

PERSON

Pitchford-Jolly, Marva Lee

Alternative Names: Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly;

Life Dates: September 11, 1937-October 21, 2012

Place of Birth: Crenshaw, Mississippi, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Sculptor

Biographical Note

Sculptor Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly was born on September 11, 1937 in Crenshaw, Mississippi to Mattie Louise Williams and Floyd Pitchford. Jolly received her B.A. degree from Roosevelt University in 1961 and her M.A. degree from Governors State University in 1974, both in the State of Illinois.

From 1961 to 1965, Pitchford-Jolly taught at the University of Chicago Laboratory School. She worked as teacher and director at the Chicago Youth Center Head Start from 1965 to 1969. Pitchford-Jolly then worked as program director at the Chicago Commons from 1969 to 1974. In 1974, she worked as a professor of ceramic at Chicago State University and the education coordinator of the Suburban Health System Agency until 1981. From 1981 to 1985, she was a self-taught ceramic artist and sculptor at the Press Artisan 21 Gallery in Chicago, Illinois. Pitchford-Jolly received an award in the Best Of Category at the Museum of Science and Industry in 1984. In 1986, she was recognized as a Top Ten Emerging Black Chicago Artist. A year later, Pitchford-Jolly worked as a curator at the Sapphire and Crystals Black Women's Art Exhibition. Her profile was featured in Today's Chicago Woman Magazine and worked as an artist-in-residence for the Lakeside Group in 1988. Her work was also featured in the 2005 Chicago Woman's Caucus for Art. In 2008, Pitchford-Jolly and David Philpot's clay pots and carved wooden staffs were showcased in the "Kindred Spirits" Exhibit at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. Her art is also exhibited and sold at the Esther Saks Gallery and was seen in Columbia Motion Pictures film, Date Night 7.

Pitchford-Jolly served on the board of directors of Urban Traditions in 1984 and the Chicago Cultural Center in 1986; a board member of the African American Roundtable in 1985; and on the Exhibition Committee at the Chicago Cultural Center. In addition, Pitchford-Jolly volunteered at the Southside Community Art Center. Also, she is the founder of the Mude People's Black Women's Resources Sharing Workshop. Pitchford-Jolly lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Pitchford-Jolly was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 15, 2008.

Marva Pitchford-Jolly passed away on October 21, 2012.

Related Entries

Francis Parkman Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Northern Illinois University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

**Suburban Cook-DuPage County Health Systems
Agency** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to 1980]

Head Start [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Chicago State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Instructor

South Side Community Art Center, Chicago [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Sapphire and Crystal [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

Hyde Park Art Center [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Artisans 21 Gallery [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]