

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Henri Linton

PERSON

Linton, Henri, 1944-

**Alternative Names:** Henri Linton;

**Life Dates:** September 23, 1944-

**Place of Birth:** Lewiston, Alabama, USA

**Residence:** Pine Bluff, AR

**Work:** Pine Bluff, AR

**Occupations:** Curator; Visual Artist

## Biographical Note

Artist and curator Henri Linton was born on September 23, 1944 in Lewiston, Alabama to Christine McMullen Linton and Readus Linton. Linton's family moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1953, where he graduated from Druid High School in 1962. He received a four-year scholarship to attend Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, where he received his diploma in fine arts in 1966. Linton went on to earn his B.F.A. degree in painting from Boston University in 1968, and his M.F.A. degree in painting from the University of Cincinnati in 1974.

Linton worked as an art instructor at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff from 1969 to 1974. In 1975, he was promoted to assistant professor of art; and then in 1980, he became an associate professor and chaired the university's art department. In 1987, Linton became a tenured professor. From 1996 to 2000, Linton held solo exhibitions at the Arkansas Arts Center. In 2004, he became the curator and director of the newly founded University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Museum and Cultural Center. He curated a number of exhibits, including Daisy Bates: In Her Own Words, Clark Terry: His Life and Time, and Keeper of the Spirit History Project. He also curated exhibits for the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. Linton retired from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 2014.

In 1966 and 1968, Linton won the top award for best figure portrait at the Atlanta University National Negro Art Show. In 1971, Linton received the best show award in the Arkansas Artist Competition, and was awarded the Keeper of the Spirit Award from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1998. Linton was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2001, and the UAPB/AM&N Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015.

Linton served on the board of trustees of the Southeast Arkansas Arts & Science Center from 1990 to 1995, as founder and chairman of the Chancellor's Benefits for the Arts from 1987 to 2014, and on the Arkansas History Commission from 2002 to 2007. Linton's artwork is included in the collections of The Arkansas Arts Center, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Linton and his wife, Dr. Hazel McKinney Linton, have one son, Henri Linton, Jr.

Henri Linton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 16, 2018.

## Related Entries

**Druid High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Alabama** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**32nd Avenue Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Columbus College of Art and Design** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Boston University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Cincinnati** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**AM&N College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1969 to 1975]

**Instructor of Art**

**University of Cincinnati** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1973 to 1974]

**Teaching Assistant**

**University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1975 to 1980]

**Assistant Professor of Art**

**University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to 1987]

**Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Art**

**University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 2014]

**Professor and Chair of the Department of Art**

**University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff Museum and Cultural Center** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2004 to ?]

**Curator and Director**

**UAPB** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1987 to 2014]

**Founder & Chair**

**State of Arkansas Capitol Art Commission** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1988 to 1993]

**Member**

**Arts and Science Center - Southeast Arkansas** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1990 to 1995]

**Member**

**Delta Cultural Center** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1995 to 2000]

**Member**

**Arkansas History Commission** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2002 to 2007]

**Member**

**Arkansas Black Hall of Fame** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2005 to ?]

**Designer**