

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Oliver Lee Jackson at the Spring 2023 commencement.

Details of Mr. Jackson's Accomplishments: The University of Iowa nominates the artist Oliver Lee Jackson for an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his sustained creative work and accomplishments as a public scholar. Mr. Jackson's paintings, sculptures, and prints are in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Detroit Institute of the Arts and the Saint Louis Art Museum, to name just a few. Two of his early abstract paintings, 4.78-I and 4.78-II, were purchased for the inaugural exhibition of the Stanley Museum.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Mr. Jackson earned the Bachelor of Fine Arts from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1958 and the Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa in 1963. Between 1964 and 2012 Mr. Jackson was an active instructor and curriculum consultant and shaped the creative work of young artists as an Artist-in-Residence or Visiting Artist at numerous institutions with prestigious applied arts programs, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Art Institute, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, the North Carolina School of the Arts, Harvard University, Wake Forest University, University of Washington, UC-Santa Barbara, UC-Berkeley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Hawaii, and the University of Iowa. He further served as the Assistant Director of the People's Art Center in St. Louis from 1963-1964 and Director of Program Uhuru from 1967- 1968. The former project sought to "bring together people of all racial origins, religious faiths, economic levels, and ages for creative self-expression through common interest in arts and crafts" (<https://www.slam.org/teachers-students/educator-resource/art-communities/the-peoples-art-center/>), while the latter provided arts programs to young people from low-income urban neighborhoods in St. Louis.

Mr. Jackson has maintained a studio in Oakland, Calif. since 1982 and has exhibited his work in many of the most influential modern art museums in the Americas, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Modern Art, the Seattle Art Museum, the Portland Art Museum, the New Orleans Museum of Modern Art and the Museo do Arte Moderno in Rio de Janeiro. He further has received numerous commissions and has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts, Art Matters (New York) and the Fleishhacker Foundation.

As the catalogue on his professional website reveals, Mr. Jackson continues to be an active painter, print maker and sculptor with recent installations and exhibitions at the Rosa Center for Contemporary Art in Napa, CA (2022), the Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA (2022), the Andrew Kemps Gallery in New York City (2022), and the St. Louis Art Museum (2021). His body of work and contributions to art education span six decades of activity aimed at stimulating creative thought and making art relevant and accessible to American communities. The University of Iowa is honored to nominate him for the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.