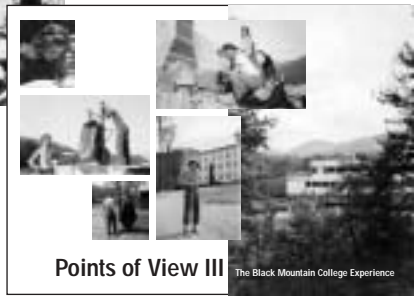


No. Four Winter 2000 / 2001



Alumni Gatherings



With the generous support of a grant from the NC Department of Cultural Resources, we have been able to organize three small gatherings of Black Mountain College alumni here in North Carolina for the purpose of collecting videotaped oral history interviews and presenting public symposia. Using the title **Points of View: The Black Mountain College Experience**, each alumni gathering has included alumni from different periods of the school's history thus giving us all a better understanding of the multiple aspects of Black Mountain College and the validity of every experience.

The first group came in August, 1999 and included Bob Bliss, Lyle Bonge, Suzi Gablik, Hannelore Hahn, Eva Schlein-Jungermann, Sue Spayth Riley and Jonathan Williams.

The second group enjoyed the lovely spring weather of this past April and included Hope Greer Eisenman, Clemens Kalischer,

Continued on page 4

Points of View I panel discussion in August 1999 (from left) Jonathan Williams, Suzi Gablik, Sue Spayth Riley, Bob Bliss, Eva Schlein-Jungermann, Hannelore Hahn, David Hurand (moderator) and Lyle Bonge.



Points of View II on the campus of the University of North Carolina Asheville in April 2000 (from left) Alvin Eisenman, Hope Greer Eisenman, Claude Stoller, Mary Parks Washington, Nathalie Georgia Sato (standing), Mary Holden Thompson, Michael Rumaker, Clemens Kalischer and Mary Parker.

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State Archives Awarded Grant for BMC Materials

This spring the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the North Carolina State Archives a grant of \$98,245 for the preservation of and improved access to its 133 cubic feet of materials relating to Black Mountain College. These include most of the college records (some of the later ones are in Charles Olson's papers in Storrs, Conn.); interviews, correspondence and other materials collected by Martin Duberman, 1967-1972, for his book on the college; questionnaires, interviews, correspondence, photographs and other materials collected by the North Carolina Museum of Art with the help of another NEH grant, 1971-1973, for which Mary Emma Harris was principal researcher; correspondence and other materials relating to Mervin Lane's anthology on the college; and 15 other collections of private papers relating to the college.

The grant will provide for an archivist and a half-time data control clerk for 18 months to complete the processing and to make all finding aids available on the World-Wide Web. It will also help with the rescue and reformatting of about 160 hours of audiotaped interviews, and 4,500 color slides of works by Black Mountain College artists, taken by or donated to the North Carolina Museum of Art.

Many of the interviews and some of the photographs were never released for use by researchers. Unless they are opened to the public, they cannot be included in the project. The Archives is trying to locate as many of these interviewees and donors as possible, or their heirs. A release for research does not alter ownership of copyright, unless the owner chooses to transfer copyright. Questions about this project may be directed to Assistant State Archivist Jesse R. Lankford, Jr., Project Director, or Mrs. Barbara T. Cain, Project Supervisor, North Carolina State Archives, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4614; telephone 919.733.3952.

BMCMAC Establishing Creativity Awards

In the spirit of Black Mountain College, we will be recognizing examples of cutting edge creativity, grounded and original in all fields, both locally and nationally. This process will encourage creativity in the arts and education and will reinforce BMCMAC's role in our community and in society. Please take the time to review or research candidates for the awards (people or institutions) and submit a nomination, responding to the following:

- *Name and contact information of person or group*
- *Description of work or effort*
- *Reference to (or inclusion of) literature about entry*
- *Your name, contact numbers and date of your submission*

Send your nominations to the BMCMAC office by email at bmcmac@bellsouth.net or by mail to P.O. Box 18912, Asheville, NC 28814. Please direct any questions to BMCMAC Board Member Rob Neufeld at 828.251.1415.

In Remembrance

Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000), one of the most famous artists to teach at BMC, died recently in Seattle, Washington. Lawrence was one of the premier African-American painters in the history of American Art. When Lawrence, accompanied by his painter wife Gwendolyn, came to teach at BMC in the summer of 1948, he was one of the first African-American Professors in the North Carolina higher education system. He had already created his famous "Migration Series" depicting the movement of black families from the South to the North. This sequence of small works featured the neglected history of African-Americans and the harmony of intense colors and simplified shapes he distinctively adapted from modernism. (*BMC MAC is currently preparing the seventh in its dossier series to accompany an exhibition of the work of Gwendolyn Lawrence*).

M.C. Richards, whose effusive, unconventional personality and committed approach to original educational methods represented one of the purest embodiments of the spirit of BMC, died recently at the age of 83. A literature Professor at BMC, Richards was a creative artist and teacher not only of poetry but also pottery and painting. Her famous book **Centering**, which connected creative endeavor to personal well-being, became a legendary self-help manual from the 1960s to the present. Another of her books **Imagine Inventing Yellow** considered issues of creativity; its title was borrowed for a commemorative catalogue of her life and work.

Ed Dorn (1929-99), one of the celebrated San Francisco Beat Poets, attended BMC in the 1950s. A writer and teacher of great originality, he played a part in BMC's final flowering under Charles Olson as an important center of avant-garde poetry and literary studies.

Norman Weston, was one of the original 20 students in attendance on the day in 1933 when BMC first opened its doors. He stayed until 1938 when he went to the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. A few years ago Norman wrote that BMC was "the important factor in my education that produced a happy and productive life. Plus a lot of luck!"

New! Faces of BMC T-shirts

Great-looking collage of BMC faces from the early 1940s. Black ink on 100% preshrunk cotton white shirt. Please specify size M-L-XL. Make checks payable to BMC MAC for \$12 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling for each t-shirt ordered. Mail to P.O. Box 18912, Asheville, NC 28814.



Alumni Gatherings

Continued from page 1

Michael Rumaker, Claude Stoller and Mary Parks Washington.

November, 2000 brought the third alumni gathering with another outstanding group of alumni: Francine du Plessix Gray, Pete and Elizabeth Jennerjahn, Basil King, Joanne McGhee, Don Page, Elizabeth Pollet and Bob Sunley.

We are extremely grateful to all who have participated and hope to be able to continue with this series. Not only are we interested in reaching a more complete understanding of *the Black Mountain College experience* from those who were actually there, we are also interested in hearing from alumni concerning the future of the Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center. Our discussions with each group have been enlightening and extremely useful in helping us chart the future course of BMCMAC. Thanks to all!

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Points of View III held November, 2000 (above from left) Basil King, Elizabeth and Pete Jennerjahn, Joanne McGhee and Francine du Plessix Gray.



Pictured at right on the Blue Rige Assembly campus (from left) Elizabeth Pollet, Don Page and Bob Sunley.

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Mary Emma Harris Comes To Visit

The Board of Directors of Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center was delighted to host a meeting with Mary Emma Harris, Director of the Black Mountain Project, and board member Linda Downs. The meeting was held in Asheville on July 14. There was fruitful discussion concerning ways in which the two organizations could collaborate to their mutual benefit.



Mary Emma Harris, Director of the Black Mountain Project and Connie Bostic, Board Chair of the Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center

BMCMAC Memberships

- \$10 STUDENT / ARTIST
- \$25 INDIVIDUAL
- \$50 FAMILY • 10% discount on books and items, including artwork for sale at BMC exhibitions.
- \$100 AFFILIATE • All of the above plus a free copy of the current *Dossier*.
- \$500 DONOR • All of the above plus recognition on the inside cover of the current *Dossier*.
- \$1000 PATRON • All of the above plus recognition on the Wall of Patrons during the current exhibition.

Mail to:
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P.O. Box 18912, Asheville, NC 28814

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Date

Amount Enclosed

Make checks to BMCMAC. Memberships are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Noland Benefit Sculpture

We would like to thank alumnus Neil Noland for his generous gift of the elegant sculpture pictured here. Neil donated the piece to be sold for general operating funds for BMCMAC.

Untitled, 2000, fiberglass, 35" x 4.5" x 2.5"

Photograph © 2000 Alice Sebrell



www.main.nc.us/bmc

The BMCMAC website is constantly growing and changing, thanks to the dedicated efforts of webmaster Nathalie Georgia Sato. Daughter of BMC co-founder Frederick Georgia, Nathalie has expanded our website into an excellent resource for the history of BMC and its alumni as well as for those interested in the various projects of the BMCMAC.

As Nathalie says, "For me the Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center website has been about memories of the four years my father was at the College, and about becoming acquainted with many who came to the College in the following years. It is about providing information and presenting works by the College's teachers and students."

New sections are being added to the site on a regular basis, so please bookmark the address and visit us on the web often.

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Alice Sebrell
Program Coordinator
for Black Mountain
College Museum &
Arts Center

Meet Alice

Since May, 1999, Alice Sebrell has been the BMC-MAC Program Coordinator. She moved to Asheville from Charlotte, NC where she was Assistant Director of The Light Factory, a non-profit photographic arts center and gallery. Alice received her MFA in Photography from The Savannah College of Art and Design and continues to make and exhibit her photo-based sculptures.

Expand Your Library with Prize Winning Dossiers

The following books published by the BMCM can be purchased directly from Small Press Distribution, Inc. by calling 800.869.7553 or 510.524.1668 or through BMCMAC at 828.299.9306.

BMC Dossier #1
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BMC Dossier #3
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BMC Dossier #5
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Michael Rumaker

**Remembering BMC
Exhibition Catalogue**

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Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization established in 1993 to increase awareness of the students and teachers of Black Mountain College and of its educational process.

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Mission Statement

Black Mountain College Museum & Arts Center has been established to preserve and perpetuate the unique legacy of Black Mountain College for public study and enjoyment, through educational activities such as conservation, exhibitions, publications, and interdisciplinary programs.