

# beyond black

Ed Clark. Eugene Martin. John T. Scott.

January 30 - May 8, 2011

Modern artists have been studied by numerous scholars and art institutions for decades, but the contributions of African-American abstract artists have been widely overlooked—specifically those from, or working in, the South. *Beyond Black* proudly presents a selection of works by Ed Clark, Eugene Martin, and John T. Scott, three African-American artists who rose to prominence in Louisiana or worked in the state for extended periods of time. While overlooked in their time, these prolific artists tested the language of abstract art and devoted their careers to exploring the forms, methods, and styles of the movement.

The works of Clark, Martin, and Scott are uniquely linked to one another through their innovative artistic approaches and their unquenchable desire to create as a definition of self-identity. They dedicated themselves to experimentation of structure, style, and materials. From Clark's gestural brush-stroke paintings, to Martin's vivid biomorphic mixed-media canvases, to the vibrantly colored three-dimensional work of Scott, *Beyond Black* highlights a selection of works by artists who worked in the tradition of free-form abstraction since its modernization in the 1940s and 1950s.

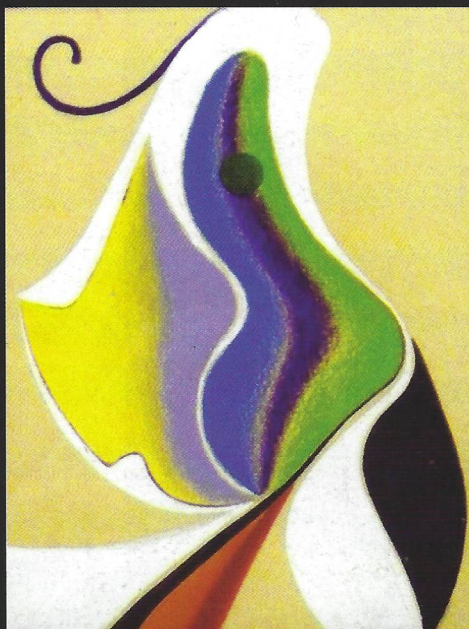
This exceptional exhibition is the LSU Museum of Art's first to recognize the contributions of Louisiana's African-American abstract artists. We have selected works specifically by Ed Clark, Eugene Martin, and John T. Scott not only to illustrate the historical significance of African-American abstractionists, but also to represent the branch of this movement that has roots in Louisiana.

It is impossible to encompass the revolutionary movement of American abstraction without the works of these three artists. Their vibrant works reveal a vision that persisted through intolerance and proudly reflects a uniquely American art.



ABOVE: JOHN T. SCOTT (American, 1940-2007), *Dancing at the Crossroads*, 1996. Painted steel. On loan from Arthur Roger Gallery. OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN T. SCOTT (American, 1940-2007), *Ethiopian Graffiti no. 4*, unknown date. Mixed media on panel. On loan from Arthur Roger Gallery. ED CLARK (American, b. 1926), *The Wave*, 2006. Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of G.R. N'Namdi Gallery.

# Exhibitions



The LSU Museum of Art is proud to partner with the New Orleans African-American Museum in Tremé on programming and events, and as a venue to showcase additional paintings by Eugene Martin. The Museum also proudly partners with the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in New Orleans, a venue with additional works on display by John T. Scott.

The LSU Museum of Art would like to thank Turry Flucker and Cheryl McKay Dixon. Their appreciation, respect, and support nourished and generated ideas that gave rise to *Beyond Black*. The Museum would also like to thank Louisiana State University interns Jeremy Kreusch and Ellen Ogden, who assisted with the research for this exhibition.

We would also like to acknowledge AT&T Louisiana, Chuck Schwing, John Turner and Jerry Fischer for their generous contribution in support of *Beyond Black*.



**BOTTOM: ED CLARK** (American, b. 1926), *Mexican Series, no. 10*, 2001. Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Peg Alston/Peg Alston Fine Arts. **EUGENE MARTIN** (American, 1938-2005), *Untitled*, unknown date. Conte on board. Gift of Suzanne Fredericq in memory of Eugene Martin. Artists Rights Society, Suzanne Fredericq. ©

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