**BETTY BLAYTON**

**Born:** 1937, Williamsburg, Virginia  
  
  
**Education:**1964-70: Brooklyn Museum School with Sculptor Minoria  Nizuma  
1960-62: The Art Student League with Arnold Prince;  
1961: City College of New York, summer, Educational Psychology and other Ed. Courses;  
1959: Graduated from Syracuse University, Bachelor of Fine Arts.  
  
  
**Significant Critics’ statements:**John Canady of the *New York Times* in April 1971, described Betty Blayton’s work as… “expert, delicately colored   
abstractions.”  
  
“I immediately responded to Betty Blayton’s non-ethnic paintings. Ms. Blayton is represented by four small round   
abstractions. Her work has a haunting oriental quality. Is she Japanese’s, Eskimo or black? Betty Blayton is simply a good   
artist who happens to be black.” – Charles Wright, “Paint Art Racist” The Village Voice, April 15,1971  
  
"Blayton's artwork is coded in the metaphysical. The sphere included in many of her works refers to wholeness, the   
relationship between man and nature in the most ultimate sense. Thus her works serve as a gateway to higher spiritual   
levels" Crystal A. Britton, African-American Art: The Long Struggle (New York Todtri Book Publishers, 1996)  
  
  
**Major Collections:**Blayton has established a distinguished career as an exhibiting artist nationally and internationally. Her works are represented   
in such collections as: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Prints. The Studio Museum in Harlem, The Robert Blackburn   
Printmaking Workshop, Uniworld Advertising Corporation, Phillip Morris Corporation, Fisk University, Spellman College,   
Virginia State College, Tugaloo College, Sidney Poitier , David Rockefeller, Blanchette Rockefeller, Ron &Janet Carter,   
Reginald Lewis, Byron Lewis, Bettina Hunter and Evelyn Cunningham. (Partial listing)  
  
  
**Sample Exhibitions 1989-2009:**2009: Strivers Garden Gallery, NYC. one women show, July  
2009: Essie Green Gallery, NYC. September, one women show  
2009: Canvas Paper and Stone Gallery, NYC. November  
2008: Essie Green Gallery – New York – group shows  
2008: “Blue” New York State Museum – Albany NY –Group Show  
2007: “Daughters of the House of Light” Two Women Show – Hammond House Museum, Atlanta, GA. 4/07  
2006: Norfolk State University, Harrison B. Wilson Archives, Norfolk, VA. 2/06  
2005: Smithfield Cultural Center, Smithfield, VA 10/05  
2005: “Master Print Makers" Synchronicity Fine Arts Gallery, NYC 1/05  
2004: "Creating Their Own Image – African-American Women Artists”, Parsons School of Design's Arnold and Sheila   
Aronson  
   Galleries, NYC 11/04-01/05  
2004: "Something to Look Forward To" Phillips Museum @Franklin & Marshall College,  Lancaster, PA.  (Exhibit is   
currently  
   traveling as of June 2007)  
2004: Smithsonian - The Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop Traveling Show  
2001 2003: UFA Gallery, NYC  
2001: National Conference of Artist of New York's International Conference Exhibition at the  
   National Museum, Accra Ghana, Africa  
2001: National Conference of Artist of New York, Masters Exhibition, Schomburg Library,  
   Gallery, NYC  
2000: Cinque Gallery, NYC  
1998: Cinque Gallery, NYC  
1997: Cinque Gallery, NYC  
1994: Pace College, NYC / One Woman Exhibit  
1993: Syracuse University's Luben House Gallery, NYC  
1990: Isabel Neal Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, One Woman Exhibit  
1989: Bedford Stuyvesant Gallery, Brooklyn, NYC, One Woman Exhibit  
  
  
**Sample Publications and Media Representation:**2005: “Creating Their Own Image”, Lisa E. Farrington, Oxford Press  
2004: “Something to Look Forward To” Exhibit Catalog, Franklin & Marshall College  
2004: “Persistence of Vision: African American Abstract Art”, a documentary for public Television  
1998: “Artist and Influence”, vol. XVII, Hatch-Billops Collection  
1998: “Collecting African American Art”, Halima Taha  
1996: “African American Art, The Long Struggle”, Crystal Britton  
1981: “Forever Free”, University of Illinois Press  
1980: “Go Tell It”, nationally syndicated television program  
1979: “You Gotta Have Art”, National Broadcasting Company  
1978: “Making Thoughts Become”, Betty Blayton-Taylor  
1973: “The Children's Art Carnival”, 15-minute videotape (Free Europe, Germany TV, WLIB, WNYC, WWRL, among   
others.)  
1973: “Betty Blayton, Artist", Contact Magazine article  
1973: “Kids are Her Medium”, Syracuse Alumna News  
1972: “People Who Make”, Art Gallery Guide  
1972, “Daily Close Up”, The New York Post  
1972: “Atlanta University Book on Art”1970:  
1972:“Like It Is”, Ruth Bowman on The Arts, WNYC Radio  
1972: Five, Film – Romare Bearden, Betty Blayton, Barbara Chase, Richard Hunt  
and Charles White  
  
  
**Awards:**2005: Woman's Caucus for the Arts "Life Time Achievement Award"  
1995: CBS “Martin Luther King, Jr. – Fulfilling The Dream Award”  
1990: The National Arts Education Association's “Eugene Grisby Award for Excellent Contributions in Art Education”  
1989: “The Governor's Art Award”, Presented by the State of New York  
1988: “Black Women in the Arts Award”  
1985: Who's Who in American Art  
1984: “Empire State Woman of the Year in the Arts”  
1982: “Apple Polisher Award”  
1980: National Council of Negro Women of New York Achievement Award  
1980: City of New Orleans “Honorary Citizen/ Teacher Training/ Arts in Education”  
  
  
**Professional Background and Affiliations/Partial listing:**1968 -1975: Founded The Children's Art Carnival in Harlem, NY in conjunction with Victor D'Amico and the Museum of   
Modern Art.  
1968-1997: Board Member/Executive Director, The Children's Art Carnival  
1997-2004: Founder/Special Projects Coordinator, The Children's Art Carnival  
1998-2004: Board Member/ Volunteer affairs and Liaison, The Children's Art Carnival  
1978-1998: Member of the Board, The Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop  
1997: Advisor, The Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop  
1993-1998: Member of the Board, Harlem Textile Works  
1992-1994: NYS Education's Arts & Humanities Curriculum Development Committee  
1983-1993: Founding Board Member, Harlem Textile Works, Inc. (A Children's Art Carnival Project)  
1983-1985: Member, David Rockefeller Art in Education Research Committee  
1979-1988: Member, New York City Commission for Cultural Affairs  
1978-1998: Member of the Board, The Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop  
1975-1996: Member of the Board, The Arts & Business Council, New York City  
1968-1994: Consultant, Board of Education of the City of New York  
1965-1977: Secretary of the Board, The Studio Museum of Harlem  
1965: Founding Member, The Studio Museum in Harlem  
  
  
**Interests:**In addition to playing major roles as a Founding Member of: The Children's Art Carnival in Harlem, The Studio Museum in   
Harlem and Harlem Textile works; Betty Blayton has also been deeply involved in Metaphysical Studies, Theatre, Mythology,  
Anthropology and Health.