

His Poetry

Finding Yourself

Finding yourself in this life is your greatest task to perform, until you begin to start the search, you are left alone. When you decide to start, be it now or then, close your eyes to the outside world and begin your search within.

Some folks search for themselves among their relatives and friends, but each time they miss themselves and have to start all over again.

Try reflecting on this, again, again, and again: You will never know yourself until you search within!

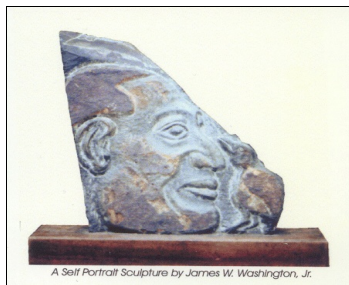
Written by James W. Washington, Jr. and
Dedicated to
Janie Rogella Washington, my wife, with love!

Published 1993 in Treasured Poems of America

A Piece of His Early Artwork



1954 - Making of the United Nations Charter
mixed media, newsprint collage, tempera



A Self Portrait Sculpture by James W. Washington, Jr.

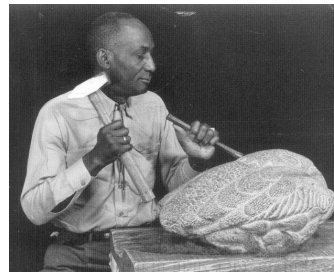
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James W. Washington, Jr.'s work is in many national collections including the Smithsonian, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Seattle Art Museum and the San Francisco Art Museum.

The James W. Washington Jr. and Janie Rogella Washington Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Contributions are tax deductible and may be made payable and mailed to:

Dr. James W. Washington Jr & Mrs. Janie Rogella Washington
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DR. JAMES W. WASHINGTON, JR.
& MRS. JANIE ROGELLA WASHINGTON

Foundation



Established 1997

A Cultural Center

Historic Home • Studio • Garden
where community meets creativity
and creativity meets community

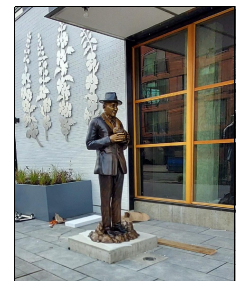


"... Art is the holy land wherein initiates seek to reveal the spirituality of matter. As such, art can be counted as one of the supreme sources of the triumph of the spirit . . ."

James W. Washington, Jr.,
Passing the Torch of Enlightenment
(unpublished manuscript)



The Fountain of Triumph
Restored & relocated
at 24th & Union, Seattle



VISION OF THE WASHINGTONS'

Through the art, philosophy, and life stories of Dr. and Mrs. Washington, the Foundation endeavors to illuminate the bond between creativity and spirituality by emphasizing the universal wholeness seeking expression through everything. This wholeness, synonymous with what we mean when we say God, has the power to bring stone to life.

- Depository for his collections - art and books
- A setting [the home, studio, and gardens] where one can grow beyond the book, spiritually and artistically
- A desire to share his legacy with the public

Our bodies are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in us. It is that Spirit, if we possess it, [that] we can inject into subject media and make it live. Herein lies the universality of art and the universality of life itself. . . .

James W. Washington, Jr.



JAMES W. WASHINGTON, JR.
1909 - 2000

Artist, Sculptor, Poet

THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve the art, writing, and lifetime works of Dr. James W. Washington Jr. and share the Washingtons' vision through the preservation, interpretation and showing of Dr. Washington's works and studio, and the family's gardens and home.

Seeker of Truth

Visionary artist James Winston Washington, Jr. is one of the most celebrated sculptors from the Northwest. He received much acclaim for his sculptures during his long life and now his early paintings are being rediscovered after his death. Washington's close friends remember him as an orator, an educator, a poet, and an artist who tried to make visible the connection between spirituality and creativity.

James W. Washington, Jr. migrated to Bremerton, Washington in 1944. Although the state of Washington now claims him, the Mississippi-born artist was actually part of a larger migration of southern blacks seeking war industry work on the West Coast. Once here he set roots in the state working in a variety of government jobs while continuing his artistic pursuits in the evenings and weekends.

Washington's motivation and confidence is evident in his visit to the Little Gallery in Seattle in 1945 where he met the gallery owner and asked for a show. Impressed with the small painting he brought with him, the owner agreed to show his work and introduced Washington to one of Seattle's artistic luminaries - Mark Tobey. The older artist, also spiritual in orientation, forged a life-long bond with Washington. Through Tobey, Washington was befriended by many other artists. With Mark Tobey's encouragement and Washington's self-confidence led to a successful life in art.

Although he had no formal training in art, Washington appears to have been practicing his craft for a life time. In a 1952 Seattle Times article Washington recalls being in grade school in the south and seeing another boy draw a cowboy. Washington remembers he spent months trying to draw the same picture and from then on his passion was art. Most of his life Washington worked a nine-to-five job to support himself and his wife Janie. His free time was spent doing art.

"In my work with stone it is as if nature speaks and I listen. Then I speak. And with the help of my hands, we speak together."

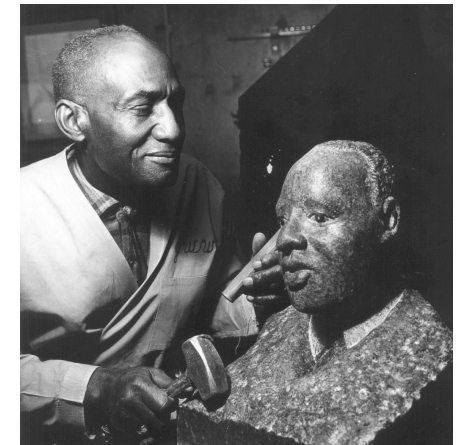


As a young man he worked primarily with pastels and watercolors. In the early 1950s, after a trip to Mexico he began sculpting. His first piece was carved in 1956 from a volcanic rock he brought back from Mexico. He titled the piece "Young Boy from Athens."

Once he taught himself to sculpt he felt this was the medium he was meant to pursue.

Washington would later say that the spiritual force emanating from art seemed to be greater within stone than within painting.

*"Art is not born of the intellect.
It is born of intuition.
It relies on this insight
for interpretation"*



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sculpture
installed at the Rotunda of Achievement
Philadelphia PA

Photograph by Josef Scaylea 1969