



# Collecting African American Art: The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

*John Hope Franklin, Alivia J. Wardlaw*

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This important book showcases institutional and private efforts to collect, document, and preserve African American art in American's fourth largest city, Houston, Texas. Eminent historian John Hope Franklin's essay reveals his passionate commitment to collect African American art, while curator Alivia J. Wardlaw discusses works by Robert S. Duncanson, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Horace Phippen, and Bill Traylor as well as pieces by contemporary artists Kojo Griffin and Mequitta Ahuja. Quilts, pottery, and a desk made by an African American slave for his daughter contribute to the overview.

The book also focuses on the collections of the "black intelligentsia," African Americans who taught at black colleges like Fisk University, where Aaron Douglas founded the art department. A number of the artists represented were collected privately before they were able to exhibit in mainstream museums.

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