AHAA Symposium 2021
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“Lou Stovall in Washington: On the Craft of Screenprinting”

Abstract:

In 1968 in Washington, DC., Lou Stovall established Workshop, Inc., a screenprinting studio that aimed to connect with political movements, reach new audiences, and create opportunities for artists to expand their work into prints. Over the next 50 years, Stovall continued to make his own prints and collaborated with many artists, including: Sam Gilliam, Gene Davis, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Catlett, Lois Mailou Jones, Josef Albers, and Robert Mangold. His significant role in the arts in Washington started when he first moved to the area in 1962, to study for his BFA at Howard University. When he opened his Workshop a few years after graduating, Stovall started out primarily printing vibrant, colorful posters for local businesses and social causes. The Workshop quickly flourished, particularly in 1969 when Stovall moved into a new printmaking studio at the Dupont Center, an artist space developed by Walter Hopps during his time as director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. This early support allowed Stovall to grow his operation and expand into fine art print editions.

Through his many collaborations over the years, Stovall has developed innovative approaches to screenprinting that elevated the medium, which continue to this day. This talk will explore the history of Stovall’s Workshop and the impact of his printing methods, through the confluence of works produced at his studio. My research draws from an exhibition currently in development—Lou Stovall: On Inventions and Color—which opens at The Kreeger Museum in January 2022.