



Margo Humphrey (The David C. Driskell Series of African American Art)

Adrienne L. Childs

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In *Margo Humphrey*, Adrienne L. Childs explores the career of one of the most inspiring artists and printmakers of our time. Best known for her "sophisticated naïve" style, Margo Humphrey (b. 1942) transforms personal experiences into narratives that speak to the human spirit. Bold colors and flat planes intertwine using the artist's unique iconography to address issues of race, gender, spirituality, and relationships. Part autobiography and part fantasy, Humphrey's work alludes to the correlation between the temporal and the spiritual as they coexist in her world.

Humphrey employs visual metaphors to channel her experience growing up as an African American woman. Everyday objects become recurring symbols in her prints: zebras embody the strength of her heritage; a plate of yams represents nourishment or survival. Whether celebrating her childhood or confronting her personal fears, Humphrey's artwork navigates her life story to convey hope, possibility, and love.

Margo Humphrey presents over forty-five color plates, from the artist's early abstract art through her groundbreaking lithographs in the figurative narrative style. The text by Adrienne L. Childs considers the memories and events that inspired Humphrey's powerful oeuvre, and the foreword by David C. Driskell places Humphrey in the forefront of contemporary printmaking.

Since Humphrey's first solo exhibition in 1965, her art has been exhibited and collected worldwide and now resides in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Humphrey has lectured and taught across the world and is currently a tenured professor of art at the University of Maryland, College Park.

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