

February 19, 1969

To whom it May Concern

Subject: Romare Bearden, artist of Harlem life

Currently on view at the Williams College Museum of Art, and extended through Monday, March 3rd, is an exhibition of "Projections" or photo-collages by Romare BEARDEN (American 1914-), who lives and works in New York City. These works consist of photographic blow-ups of collages (assemblages of cut photographs and other papers) and a few unique collages in colored papers and paint applied by hand. The black-and-white blow-ups are limited to an "edition" of five each. The subject matter of all these works is Harlem life.

Mr. Bearden will visit Williams College on Monday, March 3 and will give an informal discussion of his work in Room 10, Lawrence Hall (Williams College Museum of Art). He prefers not to lecture and will answer questions after a brief presentation. The discussion is scheduled for 8 p.m.

*Mr. Bearden graduated from New York University **
After the war ~~Mr. Bearden~~ studied in Paris, where he knew such distinguished artists as the painters Fernand Léger and the sculptor Constantin Brancusi. His own work developed in the prevailing mode of Cubism and its offshoot, collage. Returning to New York City, he lived for many years in Harlem, though his present residence is on Canal Street in lower Manhattan. Other activities have included popular song-writing and work as investigator for the City Welfare Department. *George Braque **

The black-and-white collages began about 1960, together with the idea of enlarging them to portable mural size. Recently he has turned to unique color collage. He has exhibited several times at the Cordier-Ekstrom Gallery on Madison Avenue.

During December he exhibited at the gallery of the State University of New York at Albany, whose Director, Prof. Donald Mochon, is Visiting Critic in Architecture at Williams College. The foreword to the catalogue was prepared by Mr. Bearden's long-time friend, the writer Ralph Ellison.

Mr. Bearden was active with other Black artists in protesting the lack of representation of work by Harlem artists in the exhibition, Harlem on My Mind, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

Covers for Fortune and Time are among Mr. Bearden's recent work. He is engaged in writing a book, Mind of the Artist, with the painter Carl Holty.

The Painter's Mind
Admission to the discussion on March 3 and to the exhibition itself is without charge, and the public is cordially invited. Museum hours are 9-12 and 2-4 except on Sundays (2-5 only).

Mr. Bearden's visit is being sponsored jointly by the Department of Art, the Afro-American Society, and the Williams Photographic Club.

Williams College

S. Lane Faison, Jr.
Chairman, Art Dept

SOULFUL

TO THE EDITOR:

Seeing the extraordinarily poignant and beautifully executed cover by Romare Bearden ("Soul History," Sunday, April 20) was as pleasurable as it is tremendously encouraging to other black artists who aspire to being given such a prestigious commission.

In addition to being an artist of superior gifts, Mr. Bear-



"Soul History," by Romare Bearden.

May 11, 1969

February 4, 1969

*Re: Bearden
photocollages*

Mr. John Connors
Southworth Street
Williamstown 01267

Dear John:

This is to confirm the request I made by phone this afternoon and the arrangements you suggested.

You plan to collect 26 photographic panels from the Art Gallery at SUNY (State University of New York) at Albany on Thursday sometime during the morning (February 6th). A panel truck will be adequate for this assignment. The items are packed with corrugated paper.

Prof. Donald Mochon is the Director of the Art Gallery and we will alert him as to the time of your arrival when you have notified us. His staff will be available to help you any time between 9:00 and 3:00.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rachel Norton, Secy.

cc: Steve McNicol