

# Ben Jones

## BIO

Ben Jones (born 1941, New Jersey), received an MFA from Pratt University (Brooklyn, NY), MA from New York University (New York, NY) and BFA from William Paterson University (Wayne, NJ). Jones has made over fifty cultural exchange visits to Cuba since the nineteen-seventies, and is noted by the Granma International of Havana, Cuba as one of the most important African-American artists of his generation. For over four decades, Jones' multimedia installations have reflected his travel and research in Africa, Europe, South America, United States and the Caribbean.

For over four decades, Jones' multimedia installations have reflected his travel and research in Africa, Europe, South America, United States and the Caribbean. The brilliant rhythmic colors, abstract motifs, dense symmetrically designed compositions and symbols found in Jones work combines a classical portrayal of African art culture represented by the African Diaspora and the African-American experience. A New York Times critic recently noted of Jones' installation at the Jersey City Museum in February 2009, "Many memorable, thought provoking images that deserve to be....known and appreciated."

Through abstract patterns, color and rhythm, Jones speaks to his political and cultural involvement with socioeconomic progress and cultural achievement on a global scale. Jones states, " .....I want my work to be for everyone. Once we realize that we are not only one world, but apart of an expanding universe, we begin to express the joy of creation and a love for all people."

Jones' work has been exhibited international and appears in numerous public and private collections across the United States, Cuba, Spain, Great Britain, Brazil and Japan to include the Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY), Studio Museum of Harlem (New York, NY) and Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Havana, Cuba), The Jersey City Museum (Jersey City, NJ), Espace Gaité (Paris, France), 198 Gallery ( London, England); Studio Aperto (Rome, Italy) to name a few. He has received numerous grants and awards including two National Endowment for the Arts grants (2007 and 1974-75), The Puffin Foundation grant (2005), and The Joan Mitchell Foundation grant (2002) among many others.

Jones has lectured at universities, museums and cultural institutions across the world including, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), Howard University (Washington, DC), Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA), Wilfredo Lam Center (Havana, Cuba), University of Ghana (Accra, Ghana) to name a few.