

# AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND ARTISTS

**SAMELLA LEWIS**

*Foreword by*  
Floyd Coleman





JOYCE WELLMAN (b. 1949) used the relief printing technique to create *Pathway Dancers* [Illus. 261], a complex linocut which features anthropomorphic forms that represent four stages of life. Created in 1984 this graphic expression is a part of a suite of works that express phases of physical and spiritual development in the life of a female character. The four stages pictured in this work symbolize the life of a little girl, a teenage girl, a post-teenage girl, and a sensuous and self-aware adult woman. Through the movement of the dance the figure shifts from one phase of life to another.

In *Pathway Dancers* Wellman has managed to carry the technique of the linocut to an involved and intricate level, similar to that of the woodcut. She makes use of line and overlapping forms to create a lacy quality and integrate the web-like nature of her composition.

Joyce Wellman is a versatile artist whose range in style and media includes the traditional and the experimental. Her works, although exhibited primarily in the eastern United States where she lives, can be found in numerous national publications on art and culture.

