LECTURE I- A DREAM DEFERRED

After a long period of significant neglect, African-American Art has become one of the most exciting curatorial areas in modern and contemporary art, a vital source of historical revisionism and an important sector of the art market. Why are there no great African-American artists before the nineteenth century even though there are Images of Black people in Art (most famously by Manet)?

1-Joshua Johnson (c.1763-c.1824): the first African-American artist to make a living from art; born in Baltimore (?), self-taught; his portrait sitters were white.

2-Henry Osawa Tanner (1859-1937): the most distinguished African-American artist of the 19th century; taught by Thomas Eakins; first to have an international reputation.

3-Bill Traylor (1856-1949): outsider, folk or Vernacular artist; born into slavery and did not make art until 1939; set up a sidewalk studio; Alfred Barr an early supporter.

4-Horace Pippin (1888-1946): self-taught; WWI sketchbooks; essentially a Folk Artist of genre subjects; Dr. Barnes early supporter.

5-Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000): member of Harlem Renaissance; becomes famous at 25 for The Migration Series; 1st African-American artist collected by MoMA (1941).

6-Charles White (1918-1979): member of Chicago Black Renaissance; trains at the Art Institute; teaches at Otis (LA) David Hammons & Kerry James Marshall; draughtsman.

7-Romare Bearden (1911-1988): artist, philosopher, Art World organizer, Jazz; supreme collagist and printmaker 1960s on; helps found movements & Studio Museum in Harlem.

8-Norman Lewis (1909-1979): member of Abstract Expressionist generation; first major African-American abstract artist, late 1940s on; influenced by Jazz.

9-Alma Thomas (1891-1978): art teacher 1924-1960; first Color Field paintings c.1962; 1st African-American woman given solo at Whitney Museum, 1972.

10-The Quilts of Gees Bend (19th century on): Alabama River; four generations of women quilters; made from work clothes, seed sacks, dresses; earliest examples 1920s.

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Michael Salcman, M.D.

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