



# African American Art and Artists

Art, African-American History and  
Culture

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts 1989 –  
95

2 Programs, Grades 3-12

Teacher Guides Available

Duplication Rights Included

These programs were produced to fill a need in the area of African-American History/Culture. Focusing on local and prominent artists, all of the programs promote the relevance of African-American History to the expressions of today and provide positive role models for minority students.

**101. 5 African Art Facts - Grades 3-6      15 minutes.**

This program introduces young viewers to general concepts helpful in understanding and appreciating traditional African art. The use, traditions and cultural values expressed by African art objects, such as masks, are explored. The diversity of African art is addressed by looking at several different cultures of the continent. How social customs, traditions, histories, and religious beliefs of different peoples affect the types of art they produce is discussed.

**Visual Art SOL: 3.13, 3.15, 3.16, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25**

**102. Tangible Spirits with Alison Saar – Grades 7-12      27 minutes**

- This program explores the powerful sculpture of contemporary artist Alison Saar through music, dance, and poetry, as well as through the artist's own observations. Alison Saar is an African-American sculptor who is interested in making art that can be understood by all people. She uses common materials that she finds – wood, metal, pieces of glass, nails – to create figures that express strong human emotions. Many of her works are influenced by African and Native-American cultures. The program presents a beautiful mixture of poetry, close-ups of Saar's compelling work, and her personal reflections on her heritage and artistic development. It is enriched with sensitive dance performances by Norvell Robinson, Jr. and a soundtrack by composer Butch Morris. These African-American artists created their work as responses to Saar's work.

**Visual Art SOL: 7.17, 7.19, 7.22, 7.23, 7.27, 7.28, 8.12, 8.13, 8.16, 8.20, AI.13, AI.15, AI.18, AI.19, AI.20, AI.21, AI.25, AI.30, AI.31, AII.3, AII.17, AII.19, AII.20, AII.23, AII.26, AII.31, AIII.13, AIII.14, AIII.22, AIII.23, AIII.24, AIII.26, AIII.27, AIII.28, AIII.29, AIV.12, AIV.13, AIV.14, AIV.15, AIV.16, AIV.20, AIV.24, AIV.25, AIV.28, AIV.29**

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