



SPIRIT OF THE RENAISSANCE

The Art of
William H. Johnson & Malvin Gray Johnson

You are invited to the Opening Reception for
SPIRIT OF THE RENAISSANCE

The Art of

William H. Johnson & Malvin Gray Johnson

Sunday, February 2, 2020 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Light Refreshments will be served

When former Hampton University Museum curator, Jeffrey Bruce, first curated this exhibition in 1998, he chose these two pioneers of the Harlem Renaissance from Hampton's collection because they approached their work with tremendous knowledge and sophistication. Though humble in appearance, the paintings and prints they produced are intensely modern. Bruce explained, "They look simple, but they're not," when describing the intelligence and finesse to be found in the works. "They're like Cezanne, where you see an apple on a table — but it's much more than an apple on a table."

Though not related, both artists were Southerners from the Carolinas who moved to New York City in the early 1900s. They both studied at the prestigious National Academy of Design, where they won awards for their artwork. Both men spent time in Europe. They also gained inspiration from traditional African as well as African American art forms. In addition, both artists received support from the Harmon Foundation, one of the first major supporters of African American art and creativity and were awarded prizes for their artwork in the Foundation's annual exhibitions. Later the Harmon Foundation donated a significant body of work by both of these Harlem Renaissance artists to Hampton University Museum.

RIGHT William H. Johnson, *Going to Church*

LEFT Malvin Gray Johnson, *All Day Meeting*

Exhibition dates

JANUARY 24 – APRIL 4, 2020

MUSEUM
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

Hampton, Virginia 23668