

Aminah Robison
(1940-2015):
Internationally
Acclaimed Ohio Artist

Aminah was born, raised & lived most of her life in Columbus, Ohio. She was an important multi-media artist who exhibited her work in America & abroad, received numerous awards for her art, and has work in the collection many museums, including the Southern Ohio Museum & Cultural Center here in Portsmouth.

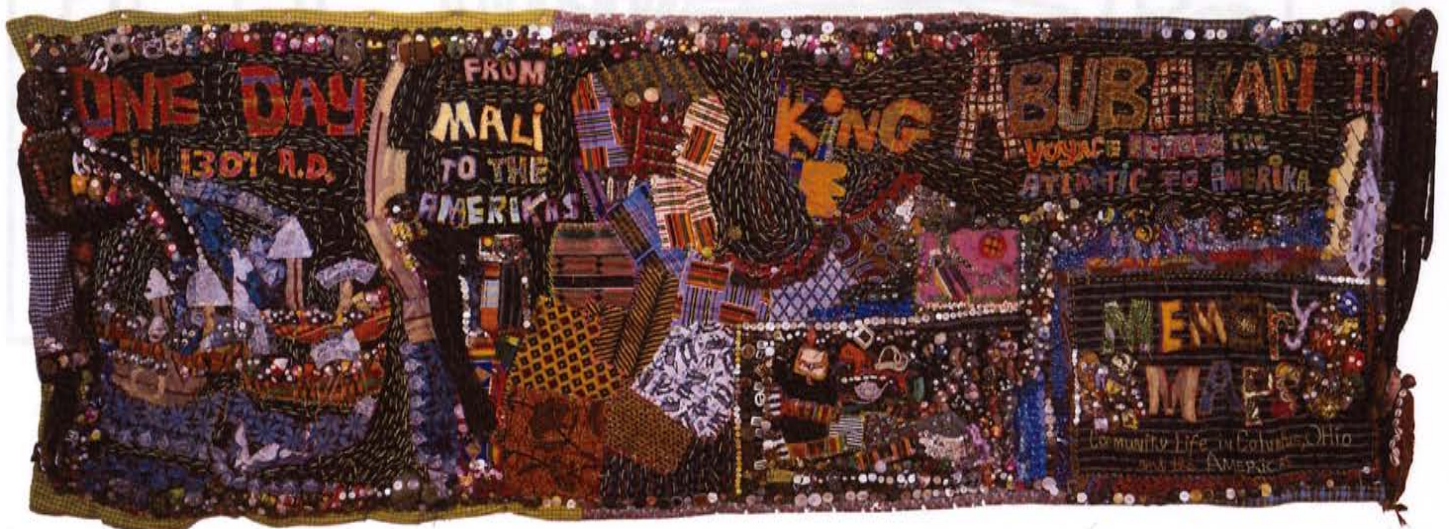


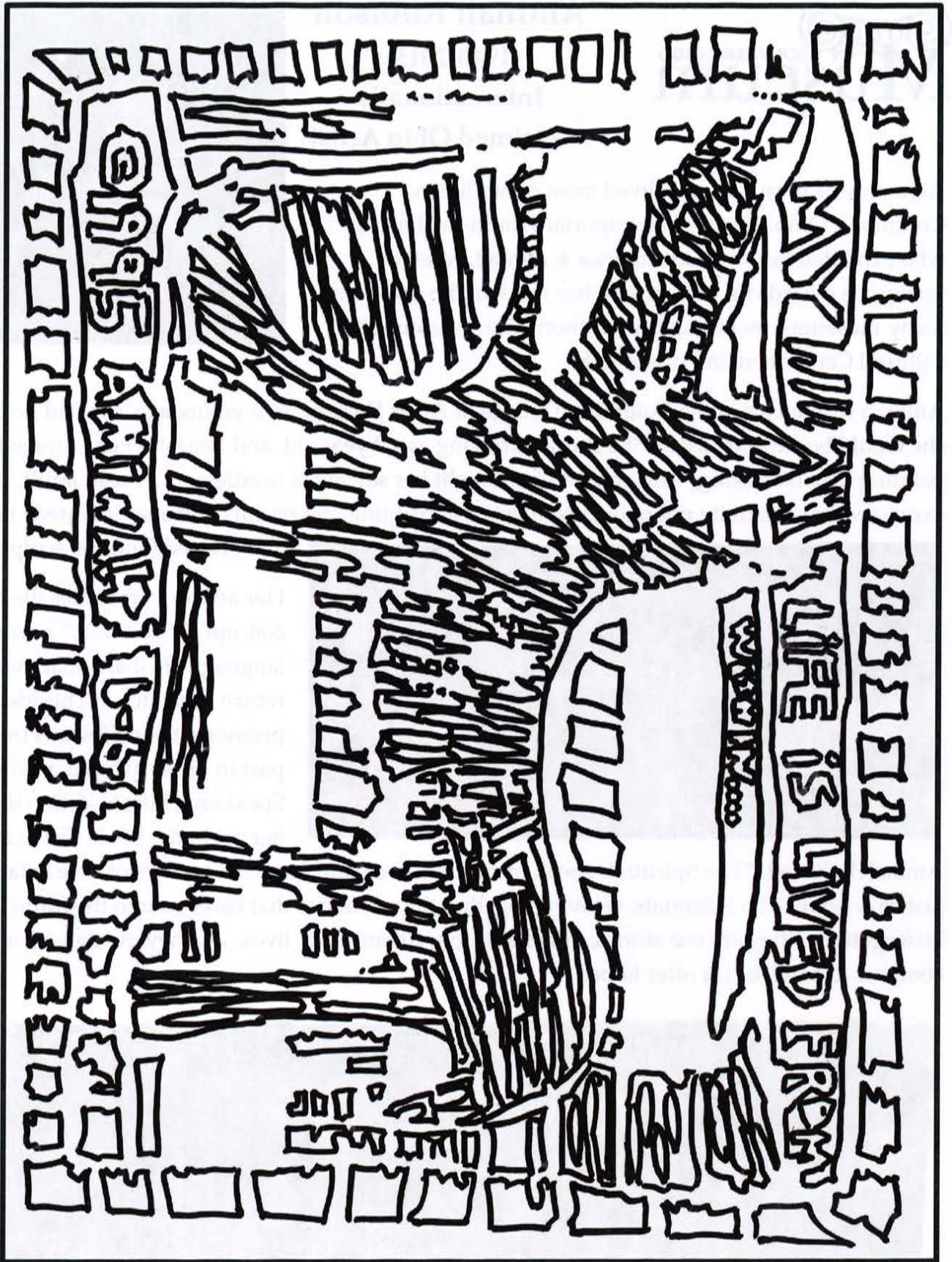
Aminah studied art at the Columbus College of Art & Design. At a young age, she had no doubt that she would become an artist. She started drawing as a 3 year old, and her father encouraged her painting & bookmaking, while her mother taught her sewing & needlework. As an adult, Aminah expressed her creativity not only in conventional painting and murals, but also “painted” in fabric and created fantastic sculpture.



Her artwork embodies the African concept of “Sankofa,” a word in a language of Ghana that means, “to return and fetch.” This idea promotes taking lessons from the past in order to build a better future. Speaking of the tradition that inspires her art in her book, *The Teachings*,

Aminah believed, “The Spirituals speak of survival, freedom & determination, of love & faith, of justice & hope. The Spirituals, weaving together the memories that carry us into the future, must not be forgotten. They are our stories, our chants, our dreams, our lives. As they did so long ago, they continue to reach out & offer hope.”





Coloring Page adapted from
Aminah Robinson, *My Life is Lived from Within*, 1995, woodcut on paper

Southern Ohio Museum & Cultural Center
825 Gallia St.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 1-5pm
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