

# The Seven Most Prominent Artists of the Harlem Renaissance in New York City

## Aaron Douglas

Aaron Douglas was an American painter, illustrator and visual arts educator. He was a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance. He developed his art career painting murals and creating illustrations that addressed social issues around race and segregation in the United States by utilizing African-centric imagery.

**Born:** May 26, 1899 - Topeka, Kansas

**Died:** February 2, 1979 - Nashville, Tennessee

[theartstory.org](http://theartstory.org)



Aaron  
Douglas

American painter

## Lois Mailou Jones

Lois Mailou Jones was an influential artist and teacher during her seven-decade career. Jones was one of the most notable figures to attain fame for her art while living as a black expatriate in Paris during the 1930s and 1940s.

**Born:** November 3, 1905, Boston, MA

**Died:** June 9, 1998, Washington, D.C.

<https://nmwa.org/>



Lois Mailou  
Jones

Artist

## Jacob Lawrence

Jacob Armstead Lawrence was an American painter known for his portrayal of African-American historical subjects and contemporary life. Lawrence referred to his style as "dynamic cubism", although by his own account the primary influence was not so much French art as the shapes and colors of Harlem.

**Born:** September 7, 1917, Atlantic City, NJ

**Died:** June 9, 2000, Seattle, WA

<https://lawrencemigration.phillipscollection.org/>



Jacob  
Lawrence

American painter

## Augusta Savage

Augusta Savage was an American sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. She was also a teacher whose studio was important to the careers of a generation of artists who would become nationally known. She worked for equal rights for African Americans in the arts.

**Born:** February 29, 1892, Green Cove Springs, FL

**Died:** March 27, 1962, New York, NY

<https://americanart.si.edu/>



Augusta  
Savage

American sculptor

## James Van Der Zee

James Augustus Van Der Zee was an American photographer best known for his portraits of black New Yorkers. He was a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance. Aside from the artistic merits of his work, Van Der Zee produced the most comprehensive documentation of the period.

**Born:** June 29, 1886, Lenox, MA

**Died:** May 15, 1983, Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C.

<https://www.howardgreenberg.com/>



James Van  
Der Zee

American  
photographer

## Richmond Barthe

James Richmond Barthé, also known as Richmond Barthé was an African-American sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. Barthé is best known for his portrayal of black subjects. The focus of his artistic work was portraying the diversity and spirituality of man.

**Born:** January 28, 1901, Bay St. Louis, MS

**Died:** March 5, 1989, Pasadena, CA

<https://en.wikipedia.org>



Richmond  
Barthé

American sculptor

## Charles Alston

Charles Henry Alston was an American painter, sculptor, illustrator, muralist and teacher who lived and worked in the New York City neighborhood of Harlem. Alston was active in the Harlem Renaissance; Alston was the first African-American supervisor for the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project.

**Born:** November 28, 1907, Charlotte, NC

**Died:** April 27, 1977, New York, NY

<https://blackhistory.news.columbia.edu>



Charles  
Alston

American painter

# New Orleans Most Prominent Artists

## John James Audubon

John James Audubon was an American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter. His combined interests in art and ornithology turned into a plan to make a complete pictorial record of all the bird species of North America.

**Born:** April 26, 1785, Les Cays, Haiti

**Died:** January 27, 1851, Manhattan, New York, NY

<https://www.audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon>



John James  
Audubon

American  
ornithologist

## EJ Bellocq

Ernest Joseph Bellocq was an American professional photographer who worked in New Orleans during the early 20th century. Bellocq is remembered for his haunting photographs of the prostitutes of Storyville, New Orleans' legalized red-light district. These have inspired novels, poems, and films.

**Born:** 1873, New Orleans, LA

**Died:** October 3, 1949, New Orleans, LA

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/e-j-bellocq?all/all/all/all/0>



E. J. Bellocq

American  
photographer

## Jim Blanchard

Jim Blanchard is a contemporary topographical artist known **for his architectural watercolors of historic Louisiana buildings**. A native son of Lafourche Parish in South Louisiana, he was raised amid the aging plantations and vernacular 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture of the region.

<https://ogdenmuseum.org>



## Debbie Fleming Caffery

Debbie Fleming Caffery is an American photographer, known internationally for her documentary work of Louisiana.

**Born:** 1948 (age 73 years), New Iberia, LA

<https://www.debbieflemingcaffery.com/>



Debbie  
Fleming  
Caffery

American  
photographer

## Rolland Harve Golden

Rolland Harve Golden was an American visual artist known mainly for his realism, abstract realism and "Borderline-Surrealisterm", a term he used to describe a style of his where the subject is "not entirely impossible, but highly unlikely."

**Born:** November 8, 1931, New Orleans, LA

**Died:** July 1, 2019

<https://www.rollandgolden.com/>



Rolland  
Golden

American visual  
artist

## Ida Kohlmeyer

Ida Rittenberg Kohlmeyer was an American painter and sculptor who lived and worked in Louisiana. Kohlmeyer took up painting in her 30s and achieved wide recognition for her work in art museums and galleries throughout the United States.

**Born:** November 3, 1912, New Orleans, LA

**Died:** January 29, 1997, New Orleans, LA

<https://arthurorogergallery.com/artists/ida-kohlmeyer/>



Ida  
Kohlmeyer

American painter

## John McCrady

John McCrady was a Louisiana painter and printmaker. McCrady was born in Canton, Mississippi and was raised in the American South. After winning a scholarship from the Art Students League of New York for his "Portrait of a Negro," McCrady studied art with Thomas Hart Benton and Kenneth Hayes Miller.

**Born:** September 11, 1911, Canton, MS

**Died:** December 24, 1968, New Orleans, LA

<https://thejohnsoncollection.org/>



John  
McCrady

Painter

## James Michalopoulos

James Michalopoulos is an American painter and sculptor. He is best known for his colorful interpretations of New Orleans. He has painted the landscape surrounding his home in Burgundy, France; cityscapes and street life in San Francisco and Boston; and anthropomorphically rendered animals.

**Born:** 1951 (age 70 years), Pittsburgh, PA

<https://www.michalopoulos.com/>



James  
Michalopoulos  
American painter

## Sister Gertrude Morgan

Sister Gertrude Morgan was a self-taught African-American artist, musician, poet and preacher. Born in Lafayette, Alabama, she relocated to New Orleans in 1939, where she lived and worked until her death in 1980. Sister Morgan achieved critical acclaim during her lifetime for her folk art paintings.

**Born:** 1900, La Fayette, AL

**Died:** 1980, New Orleans, LA

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/sister-gertrude-morgan-3413>



Gertrude  
Morgan  
American artist

## George Rodrigue

George Rodrigue was an American artist who in the late 1960s began painting Louisiana landscapes, followed soon after by outdoor family gatherings and southwest Louisiana 19th-century and early 20th-century genre scenes. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** March 13, 1944, New Iberia, LA

**Died:** December 14, 2013, Houston, TX

<https://georgerodrigue.com/>



George  
Rodrigue  
American artist

## Most Famous Painter of the Jazz Age

Howard Chandler Christy

## Other Notable Artists

William Johnson

Faith Ringgold

## Harlem Jazz Artists

Louis Armstrong

Josephine Baker

Count Basie

Cab Calloway

Duke Ellington

Dizzy Gillespie

Billie Holiday

Langston Hughes

Bessie Smith

Fats Waller

