

Catalog Items

Docent # 3 – Paintings

Juan dePareja (1606-1670)

18" x 24" Oil on Canvas

Reginald Wright, 1972, Green Haven Prison

Purchased from the slave market in Seville, Spain in 1623. Juan became the famous pupil of Velazquez. Although it was illegal for a slave to paint, Juan thrilled at the touch of a brush and responded to the canvas as if drawn by magic. At the age of forty, his passion for painting could not longer be resisted, and he started a painting, which he carefully kept hidden. In 1651 during one of King Philip's visits to Velazquez's studio, the King noticed a painting turned towards the wall and insisted he be allowed to view it. dePareja thought this would be his death because Velazquez did not recognize this work of art; it was then that dePareja confessed that it was his own painting.

(15A)

The Original Fisk Jubilee Singers

Printed in 1873 by Edmund Havel

In 1871, the pilgrimage of the Fisk Jubilee Singers began. Five years after founding their alma mater, the Fisk Jubilee Singers made their first concert tour. Fighting cold and starvation, shut out of hotels and scornfully sneered at, the magic of their songs kept thrilling hearts, until a burst of applause in the Congregational Council at Oberlin College revealed them to the world. They sang across the land and across the sea, before the Queen and the Kaiser, in Scotland, Ireland, Holland, and Switzerland. For seven years they sang, and returned to America with the sum of \$150,000 to finance the founding of Fisk University.

(19A)

"True Blue"

15" x 18" Print Artist Unknown

This print illustrates a family pointing towards a soldier who is surrounded by three Presidents of the United States, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Woodrow Wilson.

(21A)