CHRONOLOGY OF ROMARE BEARDEN


1935: Receives BS degree from N.Y.U. Works as a cartoonist.

1936-7: Studies life-drawing and painting with George Grosz at the Art Students League, New York. Joins the "306" group, an informal association of black artists living in Harlem, meeting at the studios of Henry Bannarn and Charles Alston at 306 W 141 St. Most of these artists are also members of the Harlem Artists Guild, a formal organization of Negro Artists active from the mid-30's until the outbreak of World War II. Early figurative paintings included in several exhibitions at the Harlem YMCA and the Harlem Art Workshop.

1938: Enters New York City Department of Social Services as case worker.

1940: Begins painting in tempera, primarily southern scenes. First one-man exhibition at studio of Ad Bates in Harlem. Early student works are shown.

1942: Begins service in U.S. Army, 372nd Infantry Division.

1944: One-man show in Washington, D.C.

1945: One-man exhibition at G. Place Gallery, Washington, D.C. First one-man exhibition in New York gallery; Samuel M. Kootz. He is Arisen acquired by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; first work to be acquired by a museum.


1947: Exhibits with other winners of La Tausca Art Competition, New York. Several works included in exhibition at Galerie Maeght, Paris, sponsored by the USIS. Included in 58th Annual Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.

1950: Goes to Paris on the G.I. Bill to study at the Sorbonne, but does not paint. Later travels to Italy.

1951: Returns to New York. Paints intermittently but concentrates on songwriting; joins ASCAP and has many songs published.

1952: Resumes work for New York Department of Social Services; case load only involves gypsies; continues to work until 1966.

1954: September 4 - marries Nanett Rohan. Resumes painting.

1956: Moves into present studio on Canal Street in New York.

(more)
1958: Paintings now almost exclusively non-objective.


1963: Spiral Group is formed, meeting initially in Bearden's studio, later opens a gallery. Founded before the civil rights march on Washington.

1964: Appointed to position (still held) as Art Director of Harlem Cultural Council. One-man exhibition at Cordier & Ekstrom, New York, includes collages from Projections series and their photo-enlargements. Works exclusively in collage from this point on.


1968: Included in Poster show in Poland and Bulgaria, in group shows at Dartmouth College, Minneapolis Institute, The Studio Museum in Harlem. One-man shows in Atlanta, Ga., and State University of New York at Albany.


*** Photographs and further information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W 53 St. New York, NY 10019. Telephone (212) 956-7501. ***