



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ellington Robinson

## Yesterday's Tomorrow

March 27 - May 3

Opening Reception: March 27, 7-9pm

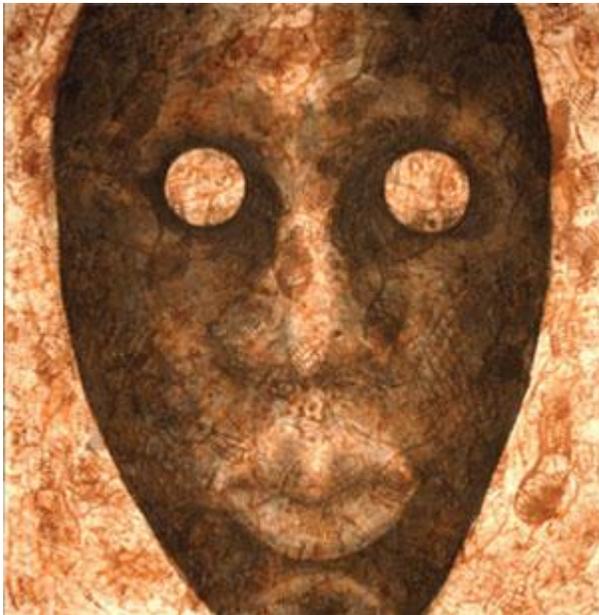
Artist Talk: May 3

Curated by Billy Colbert

Essay by Jefferson Pinder

contact: [info@dcartscenter.org](mailto:info@dcartscenter.org)

gallery hours: wed-sun 2-7pm



Ellington Robinson's new paintings and mixed media works are inspired by the wisdom of Lao Tsu's poems, "Tao Te Ching." They appropriate the geometric forms of records, Dan, and Dogon masks used to initiate youth into adulthood and draw on the seascapes of St. Thomas — which are, for the artist, spiritual locations where introspection and reflection take place. Using the elemental hierarchy of shape and color, Robinson hopes to evoke a sense of solitude through interior and exterior spaces and reconnect people with a sense of "nothingness."

"In the role of artist-philosopher, Robinson uses his works to illuminate the world around him. There is a wonderful intention in each stroke that goes beyond any formal elements that he employs in his painting. His calculated spontaneity informs and delights, while constantly being grounded in his own definition of reality." — Jefferson Pinder

"The past is present is what comes to mind when I see the works of Ellington Robinson. 'Yesterdays Tomorrow' represents the Essence of Ellington. In this body of work he explores topics that are close and dear to him — music, civil rights and the necessity of a positive environment. He reconstructs the urban decay of his youth by using elements from that same environment, thus allowing the viewer to harken back to Washington, D.C. during the mid 1980's. The pieces are a snapshot of where a young man watches jazz hand the baton to hip-hop." — Billy Colbert

#### **about the artist**

Ellington Robinson earned his M.F.A. in painting and mixed media at the University of Maryland, College Park where he is currently serving the David C. Driskell Award of Excellence teaching fellowship, as a Lecturer of Drawing. He was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up with six siblings and dozens of cousins and close relatives nearby. The Robinson household was a retreat for civil rights activists, jazz and soul enthusiasts, politicians, artists, and writers including Max Robinson, Mohammed Ali, CLR James, Stokely Carmichael, Toni Morrison, and Nina Simone. In 1980, Ellington moved to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, where the family lived on a former sugar plantation. Ellington moved with his family from St. Croix to St. Thomas in 1985 where he attended both Lutheran and Anglican elementary schools. He returned to Washington during the late 1980's and attended public school. In this period of his life, the artist delved deeper into Hip Hop culture which has had a profound impact on his art. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School, he went on to Morehouse where he received a B.A. in English. He has traveled extensively and his explorations combined with the vicissitudes of his experiences growing up are the amalgam that makes up his artwork.

The District of Columbia Arts Center is a nonprofit arts space dedicated to promoting the freshest, most under-recognized artists in the Washington metropolitan area. Comprised of a 750 square foot gallery and a 50 seat black box theater, DCAC has been in the heart of Adams Morgan since its founding in 1989. Its dynamic and eclectic visual arts exhibitions and performance events has received local, national and international reviews. We encourage an ongoing dialogue between new artists and the greater arts community and assist artists in both the business and craft of art. Poets, painters, actors, storytellers, sculptors, and performance artists from around the corner and around the world are drawn to DCAC and it remains a mainstay of the Washington, DC arts community.

DC Arts Center  
2438 18th Street NW  
Washington, DC 2009  
[www.dcartscenter.org](http://www.dcartscenter.org)  
[info@dcartscenter.org](mailto:info@dcartscenter.org)  
[202 462 7833](tel:2024627833)