Jacob Lawrence Symposium  
Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15, 2016  
Harrison Institute/Small Special Collections Auditorium  
University of Virginia

Thursday, April 14

6:00 pm: Reception (The Fralin Museum of Art)  
6:15 pm: Welcome  
6:30 pm: Poetry performance by University of Virginia students

Friday, April 15

All events will take place the Harrison Institute/Small Special Collections Auditorium, unless otherwise noted

8:15 am: Coffee + Conversation

9:00 am: Session I
Welcome: Elizabeth Hutton Turner, University Professor, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia; Introduction: Andrea Douglas, Executive Director, Charlottesville’s Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

Personalizing Jacob Lawrence’s Self Portrait within Struggle  
David Driskell, The David C. Driskell Center for Study of Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora  
The talk will center on Lawrence’s personal portrayal of the African American experience as reflected in his painting entitled The Struggle.

10:00 am: BREAK

10:15 am: Session II
Introduction: Deborah McDowell, Alice Griffin Professor, Department of English and Director of the Carter G. Woodson Center, University of Virginia

“I Hope I Transcend the Strictly Parochial”: Painting Resistance as a Universal Trope  
Sandy Alexandre, Associate Professor, Literature, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
This talk will constitute an effort to answer the following question: What does it look like to attempt to justify the breaking point of oppressed black people to those who fear it or who cannot even fathom its possibility? Ultimately, I hope to demonstrate how Lawrence’s paintings in the series concatenate to suggest that violence is not only the province of us all, but that it is also necessarily our inheritance as an American people.
The Emotion of Struggle
Leslie King-Hammond, Graduate Dean Emeritus and Founding Director of the Center for Race and Culture, Maryland Institute College of Art

11:45 am: Q & A – Lisa Woolfork, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Virginia

12:15 pm: LUNCH BREAK

2:00 pm: Session III
Introduction: Christa Noel Robbins, Assistant Professor, Department of Art, University of Virginia

Teaching the Struggle Series
Shilpa S. Davé, Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies, Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia
Theresa M. Davis, Associate Professor, Department of Drama, University of Virginia
Carmenita Higginbotham, Associate Professor, McIntire Department of Art and American Studies Program, University of Virginia
M. Jordan Love, Academic Curator, The Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia
Lynn M. Sanders, Associate Professor, Department of Politics, University of Virginia

2:45 pm: BREAK

3:00 pm: Session IV
Introduction: Carmenita Higginbotham, Associate Professor, McIntire Department of Art and American Studies Program, University of Virginia

Battle Station MoMA: Jacob Lawrence and the Struggle to Desegregate the Armed Forces during World War II
John Ott, Professor, Department of Art History, James Madison University

History as Symbols of Struggle: Jacob Lawrence Re-Presentss a Revisionist History of America
Patricia Hills, Professor Emerita, American Art and African American Art, Boston University

In 1954 Lawrence applied to the Guggenheim Foundation for funds to complete an ambitious eighty-panel history of the United States from 1607 to 1918. Although he completed only thirty panels, he succeeded in presenting a revisionist, "bottom-up" version of history in which heroic actions are performed and sustained by ordinary people.

4:15 pm: Q & A – Elizabeth Hutton Turner, University Professor, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia

*We encourage visitors to also view the Jacob Lawrence exhibitions at The Fralin Museum of Art and the Special Collections Library.