HUGHIE LEE-SMITH CHRONOLOGY

Compiled by Aiden Faust

1915 20 September: Hughie Lee Smith is born in Eustis, FL, to Luther Smith and Alice Carroll (Williams) Smith. Alice and child soon return to her parents' home at 147 Glen Street in Atlanta, GA.

1919 Alice moves to Cleveland, OH, to pursue a career in music. Hughie stays in the care of his recently widowed grandmother, "Queenie" Victoria Williams.

Early 1920s Nicknamed "Little Man" by relatives for his precocious nature, Lee Smith is allowed few playmates; he begins to focus on art. Early subjects include the trains of the Southern Railroad, whose tracks are visible from the Williams backyard. He also copies Old Masters reproductions and Gustave Doré's illustrations of Bible stories. Between the ages of six and ten, Hughie makes annual visits to his mother's home in Ohio.

1925 Now securely established in Cleveland, Alice brings Queenie and Hughie to live with her. Alice—a gifted singer—recognizes her son's artistic talent and enrolls him in Saturday morning classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

1927 Lee Smith advances to Saturday classes at the Cleveland School of Art. He attends Fairmount Junior High and begins running track.

1929 Enrolled at East Technical High School, Lee Smith runs the 220-yard low hurdles on the track team. Teammates include Jesse Owens and Dave Albritton.

1931 At the close of sophomore year, Lee Smith declares horticulture as his area of academic specialization. But over the summer, he begins drawing seriously again; at the start of his third year at East Tech, he changes his specialization to fine arts.

1931-1933 Lee Smith becomes president of the Kennedian Art Club, sings in the glee club and the a capella choir, and performs in Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance. Influential art instructors include Howard Hunsicker, Paul Scherer, and Howard Reid. Lee-Smith hyphenates his name to make it more distinctive.

1934 Wins a Scholastic Magazine scholarship to study for one year at the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts.

GROUP EXHIBITION: 10th Annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, International Exhibition of Secondary School Art, Fine Arts Galleries of Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA.

1935 After completion of the Scholastic scholarship, Lee-Smith returns home and applies to the National Academy of Design in New York. He wins a probationary scholarship but accepts a full scholarship from the Gilpin Players at the Karamu Theater in Cleveland to study at the Cleveland School of Art. Studies drawing and painting there with Henry O. Keller, Rolf Stoll, and Carl Gaertner. Interest in portraiture, an emphasis on tonal values, and pursuit of the chiaroscuro technique develop during this period.

As a condition of his Karamu House scholarship, Lee-Smith teaches one art class a week at the Playhouse Settlement until 1939. He also works with the Gilpin Players actors and
cofounds a biracial experimental dance group. The National Youth Administration (WPA) pays him a salary for his work at Playhouse Settlement.

Attends night school at John Huntingdon Polytechnic.

1936 Works as a professional singer with his mother at the Cleveland Stadium’s summer opera festival (*Aida*; Shirley Graham’s *Tom Tom*).

1937 Minor acting role in the Parade of Progress pageant at the Cleveland Stadium.

1938 Graduates from Cleveland School of Art with honors and wins a postgraduate scholarship for a fifth year of study at the Cleveland School of Art; works with the Ohio WPA Art Project to create a series of lithographs.

Meets Mabel Louise Everett in Detroit and moves to that city, where he works as a sand molder at the Ford Motor Company.

Wins third prize in freehand drawing and an honorable mention in linoprint from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *The May Show*, Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, Cleveland Museum of Art.

1939 Wins third prize in lithography from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Hired as head of the art department at Claflin College, an African American school in Orangeburg, SC. Lee-Smith develops the school’s curriculum and teaches there until 1941.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *The May Show*, Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, Cleveland Museum of Art.

1940 During the summer break following his first year of teaching, Lee-Smith marries Mabel Louise Everett in Detroit. They return to Orangeburg.

Wins second prize in lithography from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: 13th Annual Ohio Printmakers Exhibition, The Dayton Institute (OH). Traveled to Grand Rapids Art Gallery (MI); Cincinnati Art Museum; Cleveland Museum of Art; Ohio State University, Columbus; Denver Museum of Art (CO); Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN; West Virginia State University, Morgantown.

*The May Show*, Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, Cleveland Museum of Art.

1941 Mabel’s unhappiness and health problems prompt the couple to leave South Carolina; they return to Detroit.

Employed as a war worker at the Ford Motors foundry for nearly three years, Lee-Smith is a coremaker on the Pratt-Whitney engine, a special military development project.


*Five Negro Artists*, Kerner & Wood Galleries, Cleveland.

1943 Daughter, Christina, is born in Detroit.

Wins the purchase prize at Atlanta University’s exhibition of African American artists. Lee-Smith later identifies this as a turning point in his reputation and career as a painter.

James Porter includes Lee-Smith’s prints in his seminal publication, *Modern Negro Art*.

Drafted into the United States Navy, Lee-Smith is appointed an official painter of “morale paintings” with patriotic and historical themes.
During Lee-Smith's nineteen months stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes, near Chicago, his friend Margaret Goss (Burroughs) introduces him to that city's black arts community. Lee-Smith teaches classes at the South Side Community Arts Center and becomes friends with its director, the painter Rex Goreleigh.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Exhibition of Midwest Negro Artists, sponsored by the National Negro Congress, Detroit.

*Paintings by Negro Artists of America*, Atlanta University (GA).

**1944**


**1945**

Leaves the navy; returns to Detroit to work in an automobile factory. Artist credits appear in *New Masses*.

FIRST SOLO EXHIBITIONS: *Oils ... Prints ... Drawings by Seaman Hughie Lee-Smith*, South Side Community Art Center, Chicago. Foreword by Rex Goreleigh.

Snowden Gallery, Chicago.

GROUP EXHIBITION: Albany Institute of Art (NY).

**1946**

GROUP EXHIBITION: *1st Annual Negro and White Art Exhibition*, Detroit Urban League. Sponsored by *New Masses* in conjunction with the National Negro Congress.

**1947**

Moves to Chicago for a job as manager of a new art school at the South Side Community Center. Established by David Ross, the school is intended to serve veterans. Financial problems prevent the school from opening.

In Detroit again, Lee-Smith returns to factory work. Joins Local 600, a UAW chapter, at Ford Motors and becomes active in the union movement. Cochairs, with Arthur Stearn, an art committee within the organization.

The U.S. Navy donates *The Negro in the U.S. Navy* murals (created in 1944) to the South Side Community Art Center, Chicago.

**1948**

Returns to the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts on the G.I. Bill for a one-year "refresher course." Lee-Smith uses this year to paint every day and to prepare for a solo exhibition at the Ten Thirty Gallery.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith and Jasper Wood*, Ten Thirty Gallery, Cleveland.

**1949**


*12 Cleveland Artists*, Karamu House Art Gallery, Cleveland.

**1950**

SOLO EXHIBITION: Ten Thirty Gallery, Cleveland, OH.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Sam Pucci, Hughie Lee-Smith, Keith Whitmore, & Thomas Brun*, Detroit Artists Market.

*First Annual Wayne County Artist Show*, Jewish Community Center, Detroit.

*Art: USA*, New York Coliseum.

**1951**

Wins the Anthony Mauelle Prize from the Detroit Institute of Arts.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *26th Anniversary of Negro History Week*, Halvey Music Center, Detroit.

*The Negro Arts Exhibit*, Lothrop Branch of the Detroit Public Library, in observance of Detroit's 250th birthday festival.

Detroit Artists Market.

*42nd Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.

1952

Wins the Wineman Prize from the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Wins fourth prize at the Michigan State Fair art exhibition.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Detroit Artists Market.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *The Role of the Negro in American Life*, 2nd Annual Art Exhibition, Veterans Memorial Building, Detroit.

*Annual Wayne County Art Exhibit*, Jewish Community Center, Detroit.

Detroit Artists Market.

Garelick Gallery, Detroit.


*43rd Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.

1953

Lee-Smith and Mabel Louise Everett divorce.

Enrolls at Wayne State University in Detroit under the G.I. Bill and receives a BS in art education.

Begins teaching at the War Memorial Association in Grosse Pointe, MI. Lee-Smith will teach here until 1966.

 Gives private art lessons at the Birmingham Art Association (MI).

Wins the Founders Prize at the Detroit Institute of Arts for his painting *The Piper*.

Wins second prize at the Michigan State Fair art exhibition.

SOLO EXHIBITION: 21 Watercolors, Garelick Gallery, Detroit.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *2nd Over the Mantelpiece Exhibit*, Detroit Artists Market.

*Humanism in Art*, Garelick Gallery, Detroit.

Anna L. Werbe Gallery, Detroit.

*18th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH.

*3rd Annual Michigan State Fair Art Exhibit*, Detroit.

*44th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.

1954

Wins the Popular Prize from Kirk-in-the-Hills (MI) art exhibition.

Wins third prize at the Michigan State Fair art exhibition.


Founding member of the Princeton Art Association.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Forsythe Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI.

Anne L. Werbe Gallery, Detroit.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.

*19th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

*22nd Annual Mid-Summer Exhibition*, Buck Hill Art Association (PA).
30th Annual National Art Exhibition, Springville High School Art Gallery, Springville, UT.
Outdoor Art Festival, Kirk-in-the-Hills (MI).
45th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition, Detroit Institute of Arts.

1955
Wins the Roundtable and Winkleman Foundation Prizes from the Detroit Institute of Arts.
SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Howard University, Washington.
Little Gallery, Birmingham, MI.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: 16th Southeastern Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, organized by Shillard Smith, chair of the board of governors of the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, with cooperating galleries. Traveled to Columbia Museum of Art (SC); Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Inc., Clearwater, FL; Norton Gallery and School of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; Central Louisiana Art Association, Alexandria; Sarasota Art Association; Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, Savannah; Chattanooga Art Association; The Public Library of Winston-Salem, NC.
Select Group from the '54 Michigan Artists Exhibition, Detroit Club, Detroit.
Levin Collection, Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Catalogue with essay by Robert Enggass.
Three Painters: Hughie Lee-Smith, Karin von Leyden, Roy Boot, The Little Gallery, Birmingham, MI.
Romanticists, Detroit Artists Market.
20th Annual Mid-year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.
46th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition, Detroit Institute of Arts.

1956
Wins the Purchase Prize from the Michigan Academy of Arts, Letters, and Science in Ann Arbor.
GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Collectors Items, Anna L. Werbe Gallery, Detroit.
Detroit Artists Market.
47th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition, Detroit Institute of Arts.

1957
Prizewinner in the Ninth Annual Emily Lowe Competition, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.
Emily Lowe Competition, Eggleston Gallery, New York.
Annual Exhibition of the Fine Arts Section, Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Ann Arbor.

1958
Moves to New York City's East Village; teaches in Princeton, NJ, schools.
Signs with Petite Gallery (later the Janet Nessler Gallery), New York.
Wins the Allied Artists Prize from the Allied Artists of America, New York.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Petite Gallery, New York.
Detroit Artists Market.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Exhibition of Emily Lowe Award Paintings, Trinity College, Hartford, CT.
Detroit Artists Market.
45th Annual Exhibition, Allied Artists of America at the National Academy Galleries, New York.
New York City Center Gallery.
1st Annual Metropolitan Young Artists Show, National Arts Club, New York.

1959
Wins the Thomas B. Clarke Prize from the National Academy of Design.
Wins honorable mention from City Center Gallery, New York.
GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Two Michigan Artists: Hughie Lee-Smith and Zuhel Kachadoorian, Albion College (MI).
Oils by Nine Prize Winners, Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.
The New York Center Gallery.
10th Anniversary New England Exhibition, Silvermine Guild, New Canaan, CT.
Pennsylvania Academy Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia.
46th Annual Exhibition, Allied Artists of America at the National Academy Galleries, New York.

1960
Teaches at the Princeton Art Association (and continues throughout the 1960s and 1970s).
SOLO EXHIBITION: Janet Nessler Gallery (Petite Gallery), New York.
GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.
Collector's Choice IV: A Sales Exhibition of Objects d'Art, City Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO.
Annual Eastern States Art Exhibition, Silvermine Guild, New Canaan, CT.
25th Annual Mid-year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

1961
Lee-Smith's daughter, Christina, moves to New York to live with Lee-Smith, around 1961-1962.
Wins the first purchase prize from the American Society of African Culture.
Catalogue with essay by James A. Porter.
Detroit Artists Market.
Annual Eastern States Art Exhibition, The Museum of Fine Arts, West Springfield, MA.
26th Annual Mid-year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

1962
Lee-Smith's ex-wife, Mabel Everett, dies from cancer.
SOLO EXHIBITION: Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.
20th Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Academy Galleries, New York.
Pennsylvania Academy Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.
27th Annual Mid-year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.
49th Annual Exhibition, Allied Artists of America, National Academy Galleries, New York.

1963

WINS THE RANGER FUND PURCHASE PRIZE FROM THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.

The Gallery, Sandusky, OH.


28th Annual Mid-year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

1964

MARRIES HELEN NEBRASKA BOWERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

TEACHES ART AT THE PRINCETON COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL UNTIL 1966.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: 22nd Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Academy Galleries.


29th Annual Mid-year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

1965

Janet Nessler Gallery closes. Lee-Smith joins Grand Central Galleries.

ELECTED AN ASSOCIATE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

SUFFERING AN ACUTE ATTACK OF BURSITIS COMPROMISED BY EXHAUSTION, LEE-SMITH IS PUT ON BED REST BY HIS PHYSICIAN. HE IS UNABLE TO LIFT HIS PAINTING ARM.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market at J. L. Hudson Company.

Campus Art, Union Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Princeton Portraits, Princeton Art Association at McCarter Theater.


PUBLIC COMMISSION: E. R. Squibb & Sons, Collegia Medica series, two oil paintings of the University of Michigan Medical School.

1966

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.

Forsythe Gallery, Ann Arbor.


1967

TEACHES ART AT VERMONT ACADEMY IN SAXONS RIVER, VT.

BECOMES THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTIST SINCE HENRY OSSAWA TANNER (1927) TO BE ELECTED A FULL MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.


142nd Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York.

Annual Exhibition of the Art Education Alumni Association, Wayne State University, Detroit. March 19–April 6.

1968

SOLO EXHIBITION: Grand Central Art Gallery, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Contemporary Black Artists, Minneapolis Institute of Arts with Ruder & Finn Fine Arts (NY). Exhibition revised and enlarged in 1969. Traveled to the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY; San Francisco Museum of Art; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston;
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton; Roberson Center for the Arts and Sciences, Binghamton, NY; Art Gallery, University of California at Santa Barbara.

4th Annual Invitational Exhibition HFCC, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, MI. Detroit Institute of Arts.
The Scarab Club, Detroit.


143rd Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York.
Community Arts Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit.

1969
Artist in residence at Howard University through 1971.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Bergman Galleries, University of Chicago.


144th Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York.

1970
GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Paintings and Sculpture from the Gallery Collection and Dedication of the James A. Porter Gallery of African Art, Howard University Gallery of Art.

Homage to Alain Locke, Atlanta University. Catalogue with essay by Richard A. Long.

Black Artists Exhibition, Sill Hall Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.


Afro-American Artists, New York and Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, in conjunction with The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists and The School of Fine Arts, Boston.


1971

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: J. L. Hudson Company, Detroit.
Arwin Galleries, Detroit.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Art Faculty Exhibition, Howard University Gallery of Art.


1972
Resumes teaching at Studio-on-the-Canal in Princeton until 1976.

Teaches at the Art Students League until 1988.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Third Invitational Show, Art Confederation Gallery, Owen's Barn, Kingston, NJ.

Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition, Art Students League, New York.

147th Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York.

1973
July 25: Granddaughter, Piëra, is born to Christina and Ervin Dinwiddie in San Francisco.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Grand Central Art Galleries, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1974

After years of living separately, Lee-Smith and Helen Nebraska Bowers divorce.

Receives certificate of commendation from the U.S. Navy.

SOLO EXHIBITION: San Giuseppe Gallery, College of Mount Saint Joseph-on-the-Ohio, Saint Joseph, OH.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Combat Art of WWII*, Reserve Officers Association, Minuteman Building, Washington, DC.


*Aspects of the Figure*, Cleveland Museum of Art, Catalogue with essay by Edward B. Henning.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1975


*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1976

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Michigan Collects Michigan Art*, Pontiac Creative Arts Center, Detroit.


*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1977

Wins the National Academy of Design’s Ranger Fund purchase prize a second time.

Becomes a member of the Studio Museum in Harlem’s curatorial council.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.


1978

Marries Patricia Thomas-Ferry in New York City.

Nominated the director in oil of Audubon Artists, Inc.


*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1979  
**GROUP EXHIBITION:** 154th Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York.

1980  
Elected president of Audubon Artists, Inc.; serves until 1982.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS:** *Historical Roots: The Black Artists in Michigan*, Detroit Historical Museum.


*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1981  
Moves to North Bergen, NJ.

Re-elected president of Audubon Artists.

Awarded the Bronze Plaque from the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS:** *Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1982  
Moves to East Windsor, NJ.

Receives the Ralph Fabri Award from Audubon Artists.

*Portrait of Two Artists*, a documentary film featuring Hughie Lee-Smith and Jacob Lawrence, airs on public television.

**SOLO EXHIBITION:** Summit Gallery, New York.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS:** *The Cleveland Institute of Art: 100 Years*. Catalogue essay by Edward B. Henning.


40th *Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.


1983  
Receives the Binny & Smith Award from Audubon Artists.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS:** *Surrealism and the Afro-American Artist*, Evans–Tibbs Collection, Washington, DC. Catalogue with essay by Thurlow E. Tibbs, Jr.

*Six Artists from the Market's History*, Detroit Artists Market.
New Jersey Artists of the National Academy of Design, YMYHA, West Orange, NJ.

Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.

41st Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition, Art Students League, New York.


1984

October 19 declared Hughie Lee-Smith Day in Cleveland.

Awarded the key to the city of Hartford, CT.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Malcolm Brown Gallery, Shaker Heights, OH.

CRT’S (Community Renewal Team’s) Craftery Gallery, Hartford.


GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Since the Harlem Renaissance: 50 Years of African-American Art, Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. Catalogue with preface by Joseph Jacobs. Traveled to the Amelia A. Wallace Art Gallery, The State University of New York, Westbury; Museum of Art, Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, Utica; Art Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park; The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA; Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.

42nd Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition, Art Students League, New York.


1985

Becomes the National Academy of Design’s first African American at-large council member; sits on the council until 1989.

Receives the Emily Lowe Award from Audubon Artists.

Elected vice president for oils by Audubon Artists.


The 1985 African/Latin Festival, Human Service Center Auditorium, Waterbury, CT.


Selections from the Permanent Holdings: 19th and 20th Century Art, Evans-Tibbes Collection at the Sixth District Police Headquarters, Washington, DC.

The Factory Showoff, Cleveland Institute of Art.

Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.

43rd Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club.

Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition, Art Students League, New York.

1986 Receives the Len Everette Memorial Award from Audubon Artists.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Art Center of Battle Creek (MI).


Additional, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.


Artists Fellowship Board Members, The National Arts Club.


Thirteen Black Artists, Joe & Emily Lowe Art Gallery at Hudson Guild, with the cooperation of Kenkeleba House and Onyx Gallery, New York.

Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, Art Students League, New York.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.

44th Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition, Art Students League, New York.


Isobel Neal Gallery, Chicago.


Landscapes from Four Perspectives, A Princeton Art Association Exhibition at Merril Lynch Administrative Headquarters, Princeton.

Al Wade/Hughie Lee-Smith, Hudson Guild Art Gallery, New York.

Inaugural Exhibition, June Kelly Gallery, New York.


Symbols, Metaphors, Dreams, Joe & Emily Lowe Art Gallery at Hudson Guild, New York.

39th Annual Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.

Jamaica Arts Center, New York.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.

45th Annual Exhibition, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition, Art Students League, New York.

162nd Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York.


Malcolm Brown Gallery, Shaker Heights, OH.
National Urban League, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: A Bid for Human Rights, Brenda Walter Gallery, Santa Monica, CA. Exhibition and auction sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jackson, Michael Jackson and Family, New Jersey Network, Public Television.


40th Annual Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.


PUBLIC COMMISSIONS: The Prudential and Deansbank Investment Corporation, Idyllic Landscape, mosaic mural, McPherson Building, Washington, DC.

New Jersey State Council on the Arts: Cityscape, mural, Trenton.


Armory Art Gallery, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg.


Traveled to Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NY; Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie; Afro-American Cultural Center, Charlotte; Patrick & Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee; Hillwood Art Gallery, Brookville, NY; Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio; Nevada Institute of Contemporary Art, Las Vegas; Grinnell College (IA); Columbus Museum (GA); Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock; Museum of Art and Archaeology, Columbia, MO; Edison Community College Gallery, Fort Myers, FL; University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington; Terra Museum of American Art, Chicago; Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, Savannah; Fort Wayne Museum of Art; Knoxville Museum of Art; Stedman Art Gallery, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ; Museum of African American History, Detroit; Western Washington University, Bellingham.

19 Black Artists of Capital County, Library Gallery, West Windsor Campus, Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ.
25 Years of Teaching at Artworks/Princeton, Artworks/Trenton (NJ).

Black Printmakers and the WPA, Lehman College Art Gallery, Bronx. Catalogue with essays by Nina Castelle Sundell and Leslie King-Hammond.


Reader's Digest Publishing Company, Pleasantville, NY.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.


1990

Buys a home in the Clearbrook retirement community in New Jersey. Lee-Smith has never owned a house before.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Greenville Museum of Art (SC).


Zimmerli Observes Black History Month, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ.

A Black Collector's Odyssey in Contemporary Art, Community Gallery of Art, College of Lake County, Chicago. Catalogue essay by Victoria Lautman.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.


1991


The Aljira Fine Art Auction at Gateway Center, Newark.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.


1992

Diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Emergency surgery at Princeton Hospital for complications of radiation therapy. Six-week convalescence in hospital and at home.


Drawings II, Koplin Gallery, Santa Monica.


Aspects of Realism, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.


Invitational Exhibition, The Lotos Club, New York.


1993 SOLO EXHIBITION: Hughie Lee-Smith: Selected Paintings, Flushing (NY) Council on Culture and the Arts at Town Hall.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Russell and Rowena Jelliffie Collection from Karamu Workshop, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights.

Drawings III, Koplin Gallery, Santa Monica.


Collector's Choice: Celebrating Diversity, Rotunda Gallery at the Unitarian Church, Montclair, NJ, in cooperation with Aljira: A Center for Contemporary Art, Newark.


June Kelly: A Particular Vision, Anderson Gallery, Buffalo.

African American Artists 1940–1960, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, MI.


The Inlander Collection of Great Lakes Regional Painting, 1913–1958, Corridor Gallery, Cleveland State University.
American Regionalism, paintings from the private collection of Michael Hall and Patricia Glascock. Traveled to the Center for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design, Institute of Music and Dance, Center Galleries, Detroit.

Van Der Zee Award Artists: Prints from the Brandywine Workshop, Hahn Gallery, Germantown, PA.


46th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.


PUBLIC COMMISSION: City Hall, New York: official portrait of Mayor David N. Dinkins.

1995

Receives honorary doctorate in fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore.


GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Realism/Surrealism, TAWA, Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie, Trenton. Traveled to Nabisco Brands, Incorporated, East Hanover, NJ.


African-American Printmaking, 1838 to the Present, Rockland Center of the Arts, West Nyack, NY.

47th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.


1996

Lee-Smith’s great-grandson, Travis Douglas, is born.


48th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.


1997

Moves to home with studio in Albuquerque, NM.


Of time and space... paintings by Hughie Lee-Smith, Milton Rhodes Gallery at the Sawtooth Building, Winston-Salem, NC. A presentation of Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, Inc.. Catalogue with essay by Leo Twiggs. February 13–March 15.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: The Language of Landscape: Paintings and Drawings from the Collection of the National Academy of Design.


1998

Awarded the key to the city of Eustis, FL.


Faithful Voices: Four Decades of African American Art, University Museum of Hampton University, VA.


The African-American Fine Arts Collections of the New Jersey State Museum (Trenton).

1999

February 23: Hughie Lee-Smith dies of cancer in Albuquerque, at the age of 83.


2000

SOLO EXHIBITION: Memorial Exhibition, June Kelly Gallery, New York.


2001

SOLO EXHIBITION: Stages of Influence: The Universal Theater of Hughie Lee-Smith, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque. Guest curated by Sara L. Marion.

2003

GROUP EXHIBITION: Art in Embassies Program, Washington, DC.

2006


2007


From Here to Infinity, Cleveland Institute of Art. Curated by Bruce Checelsky, director of the institute's Reinberger Galleries. Catalogue. September 7–October 27.

2008


2009