

Daniel Minter

Artist Biography

Portland, Maine | danielminter.net | indigoartsalliance.me

FULL BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Minter is a sculptor, painter and printmaker whose work builds an iconography of the Afro-Atlantic experience rooted in resilience, resistance and healing. Working in carved wood, canvas, metal and mixed-media assemblage, he explores displacement and diaspora, the spirituality of African diasporic traditions, and the ongoing (re)creation of meanings of home.

Minter created *Universe of Freedom Making*, the commissioned centerpiece of *In Slavery's Wake: Making Black Freedom in the World*. The exhibition is the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture's first international traveling show, and it is touring Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town, Dakar and Liverpool through 2028. His work is currently on view in *MAINE: A Force Within American Art (1890-2026)* at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine; *Thresholds* at the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and *Re|Sounding* at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, Maine. It is held in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian NMAAHC, the Hood Museum of Art, the Colby College Museum of Art, the Portland Museum of Art, the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Bowdoin and Bates College museums of art, and the David C. Driskell Center.

A Joyce Award recipient, Minter makes permanent public works that are built with the communities they honor. They include *In the Healing Language of Trees* at Milwaukee's Lynden Sculpture Garden and *In the Voice of Trees* at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. As co-founder of the Portland Freedom Trail, he created its bronze bas-relief markers, set in granite at 13 sites of the city's abolitionist movement and Underground Railroad. His long engagement with Malaga Island, whose interracial community the State of Maine forcibly removed in 1912, was pivotal in having the island designated a public preserve.

His honors also include a Caldecott Honor and a Coretta Scott King Honor. The U.S. Postal Service twice commissioned his artwork for its national Kwanzaa stamp. A National Endowment for the Arts travel grant first took him to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and his residencies have since included the G.A.S. Foundation in Nigeria, founded by Yinka Shonibare. In 2018 he co-founded Indigo Arts Alliance in Portland, Maine. Begun as an artist residency and incubator space, it has grown into an international institution, hosting 98 artists of African descent from more than 16 countries along with scholarly

programs and symposia. Minter holds honorary doctorates from Colby College and the Maine College of Art & Design.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Minter is a sculptor and painter whose work builds an iconography of the Afro-Atlantic experience rooted in resilience, resistance and healing. He created *Universe of Freedom Making*, the centerpiece of the Smithsonian NMAAHC's international touring exhibition *In Slavery's Wake*. His work is in the collections of the Smithsonian, the Hood Museum, the Portland Museum of Art and the Farnsworth Art Museum. His honors include the Joyce Award and a Caldecott Honor, and he co-founded Indigo Arts Alliance and the Portland Freedom Trail. He lives in Portland, Maine.