

Benny Andrews, Visual artist

Benny Andrews (November 13, 1930 – November 10, 2006) was an American painter, printmaker, creator of collages and educator. He was born November 13, 1930 in Plainview, Georgia and died November 10, 2006 in Brooklyn, New York.

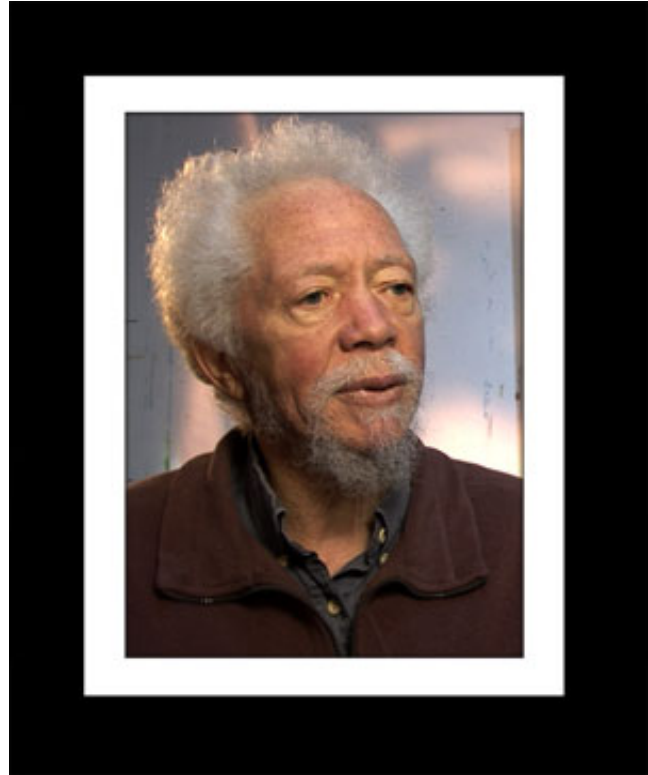
Andrews was an African American who was one of 10 children of sharecroppers raised in Georgia while it was still segregated. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school. Andrews then went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force. Afterwards, the G.I. Bill of Rights afforded him training at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His first New York solo show was in 1962. From

1968 to 1997, Andrews taught at Queens College, City University of New York, and created a prison arts program that became a model for the nation.

In 1969, Andrews co-founded the Black Emergency Cultural Coalition (BECC) an organization that protested the 'Harlem on my Mind' exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. They protested the fact that no African-Americans were involved in organizing the show. The BECC then persuaded the Whitney museum to launch a similar exhibition of African American Artists, but later boycotted that show as well for similar reasons. In 2006, he traveled to the Gulf Coast to work on an art project with children displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

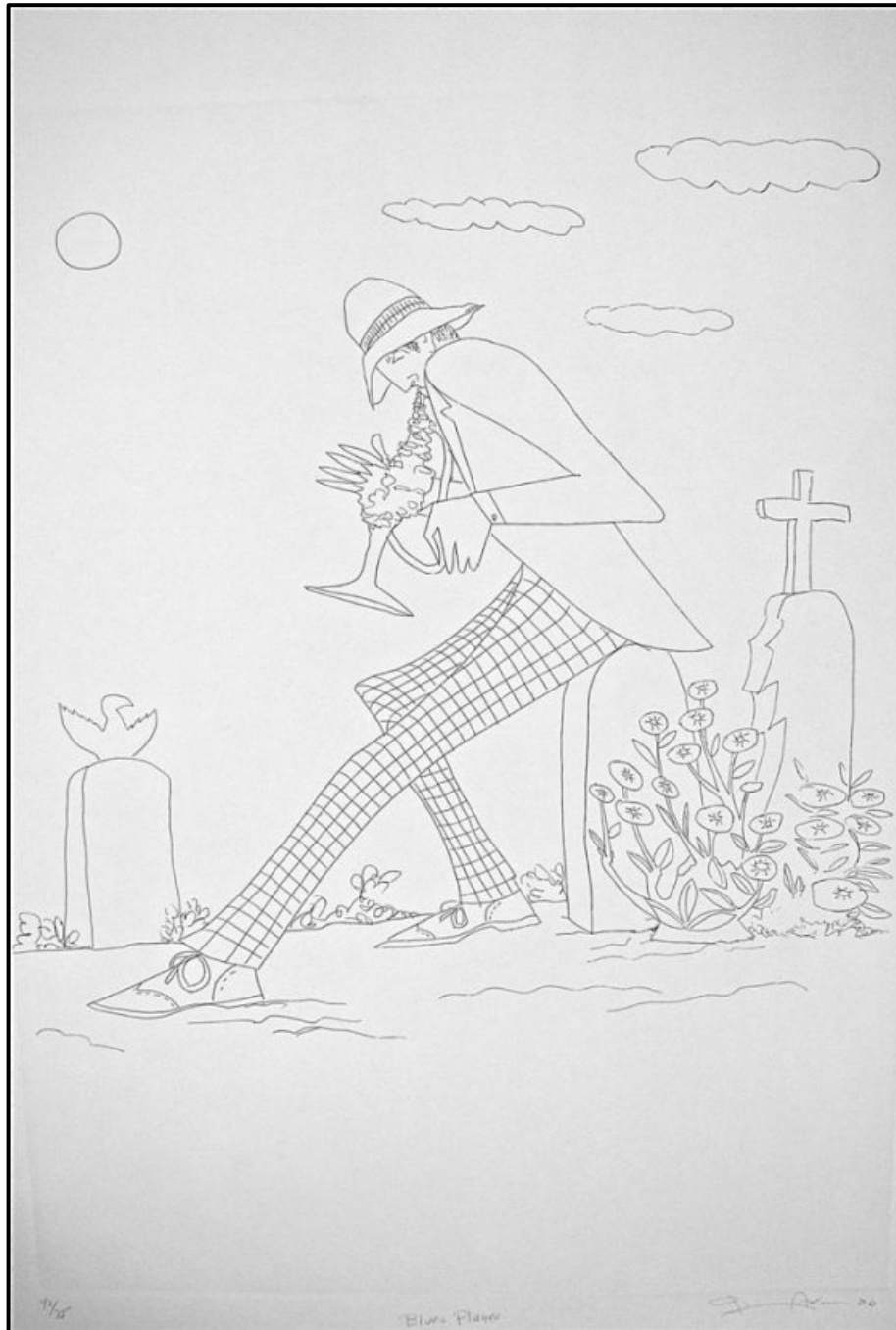
He was the director of visual arts for the National Endowment for the Arts from 1982 to 1984. In 1983 he was instrumental in helping form The National Arts Program, which today is the largest coordinated visual arts program in the nation's history.

Benny Andrews was a figural painter in the expressionist style who painted a diverse range of themes of suffering and injustice, including The Holocaust, Native American forced migrations, and most recently, Hurricane Katrina. Other influences on his work include Anti-Modernist American Scene painting, Surrealism, and Southern folk art. His work hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago, the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York



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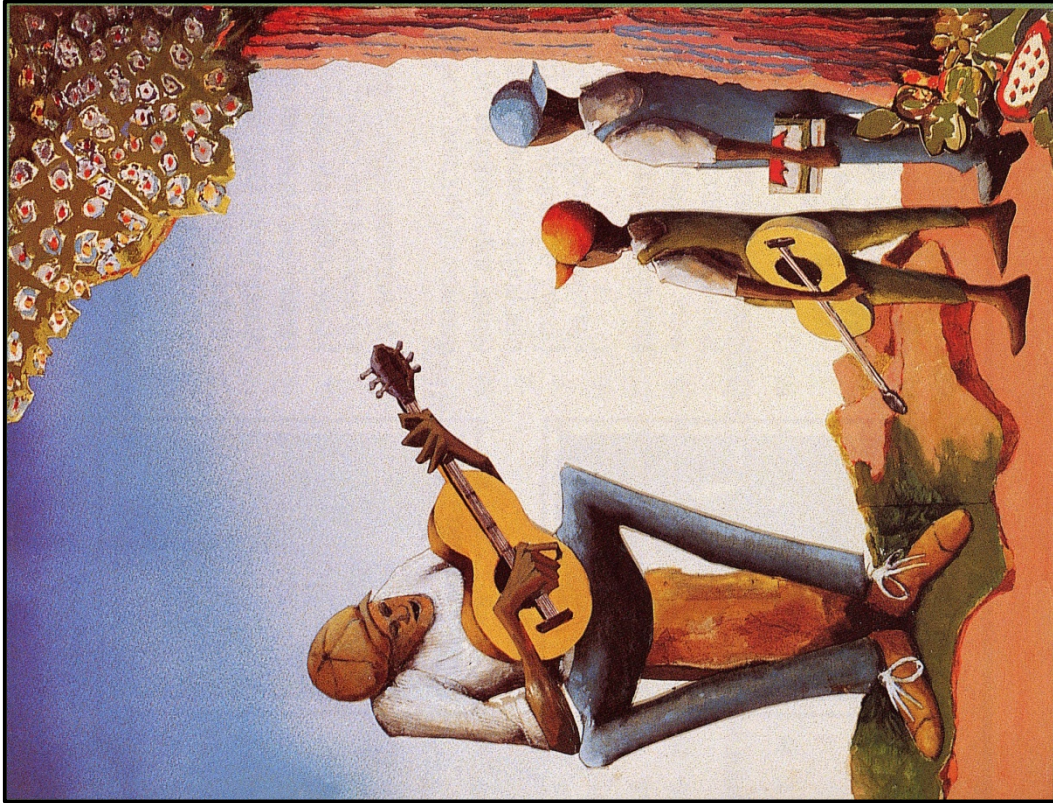
City, the High Museum of Art and Atlanta Hartsdale International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, Louisiana, and The Burgess Fine Arts Collection.



Etching: Blues Player http://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/17546224_benny-andrews-etching

Source: Burgess Fine Arts Collection, <http://burgessfinearts.com/andrews.html>

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The Music Lesson



Hound Dog Blues