

1955/56 REGULAR PROGRAMME

Creative Artists

U. S. A.

John BIGGERS - Painter

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1955/56 REGULAR PROGRAMME

Creative Artists/Painter

John Thomas RIGGERS - 3527 Ruth Street, Houston, Texas  
Professor and Head, Art Dept., Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas  
Born : 13/4/24

6 months fellowship in Painting awarded on 16/1/57

The programme has taken place in Ghana and Nigeria.

From the beginning of July 57 to 10 January 1968 [1959]

REPORT - Positive comments of GLT

*His book "An Artist's Study of Life in West-Africa"  
has No 16 in ID's Biblio -*

IES 4517/0135 AEMs

*Museum  
1964  
C.B.A.*

2 November 1961.

Dear Mr. Biggers,

I refer to your report, "An artist study of life in West Africa", and have pleasure in informing you that our Department of Cultural Activities has found your report most impressive and of the very highest standard. I should like to congratulate you on the excellent result of your fellowship and feel you have achieved the aim of the fellowship admirably.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

I. Dandolo, Chief,  
Division of Unesco Fellowships  
Administration,  
International Exchange Service.

Mr. John T. Biggers,  
Head, Art Department,  
Texas Southern University,  
HOUSTON, Texas.  
U.S.A.

*Am...  
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*M. Biggers*  
→

U.N.E.S.C.O.

le 7 juillet 1961.

Au : Département des Activités culturelles,  
à l'attention de M. Dard

*M. D.*

Du : Service des Echanges internationaux.

Objet: Rapport de Mr. John T. Biggers (USA) - Artiste créateur au  
titre du Programme 1955/56.

.....  
M. Biggers, Américain d'origine africaine, qui a  
bénéficié d'une bourse en 1957, nous soumet son rapport sous  
forme d'un volume illustré, que veuillez trouver ci-joint.

Nous serions heureux d'avoir vos commentaires sur ce  
document, que vous voudrez bien nous retourner .

*- 7 JUL 1961  
ALA/0772*

I. Gandolo  
Chef,

Division de l'Administration des bourses.

*To M. Dardo.*

*This is certainly an impressive production and the  
author has taken his responsibility very seriously.  
— a very thorough effort & he should be complimented*

*4848*

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

(Please type or print all entries)

Attac  
taken  
year

Photo  
in ca



igned  
ched.

Country or countries of study:  
GOLD COAST, AFRICA

Date of application:

1st      1st      56  
Day      Month      Year

PERSONAL DATA AND STUDY PLANS OF PROSPECTIVE FELLOW

Name in full: John Thomas Biggers

Present address: 3527 Ruth Street, Houston, Texas

Permanent address: 3527 Ruth Street, Houston, Texas

Emergency addresses: (Give names of nearest relatives or other emergency addresses)

Name: Joseph Biggers

Relationship: Brother

Address: 616 Bernice Street, Durham, N. C.

Name: James Biggers

Relationship: Brother

Address: 114 West Lincoln Avenue, Gastonia, N. C.

Date and place of birth: 4/13/24, Gastonia, N. C.

Citizenship: Native born  
American

Single, married, widowed, divorced:

Wife's/Husband's name:  
Hazel Biggers

Date of marriage: Dec. 26, 1948

Number of children: None

Age and sex of children: None

Present professional activities:

Professor and Head Art Dept.  
Texas Southern University  
Houston, Texas

Annual salary: 7100.00

If you are in employment with a government agency, university or educational, cultural or other organization, what portion of your annual salary will be maintained if you receive a fellowship? **NONE**

EDUCATION:

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Name of Institution:</u>	<u>First and last year spent there:</u>	<u>Degrees:</u>	<u>Date:</u>
Secondary School:	Lincoln Academy	1937 - 41	Diploma	1941
University, Faculty:	Hampton Institute	1941-43-45		
	Penna. State Univ.	1946-48	B. S.	1948
Post-University:	Penna. State Univ.	1948-49	M. Ed.	1948
	Penna. State Univ.	1953-54	D. Ed.	1954
Other Training:	Univ. Southern Calif.	1952		
	U. S. Navy	1943-45	Sp. X3/C	1945

KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES:

Prospective fellows may be required to undergo a test in the language(s) of the country or countries of study.

LIST OF LANGUAGES:

	<u>S p o k e n</u>			<u>W r i t t e n</u>		
	<u>Exc.</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Exc.</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>
ENGLISH		X			X	

FELLOWSHIPS OR SCHOLARSHIPS HELD FOR STUDY ABROAD: NONE

<u>Source and Sponsor:</u>	<u>Place of Study:</u>	<u>Period of Tenure:</u>
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EXPERIENCE:

Please give on a separate sheet a full outline of your professional experience, indicating positions held, and describing your literary or artistic production, and major distinctions.

PROFESSIONAL

John Biggers

EXPERIENCE:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Subjects Taught</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Date</u>
Graduate Teaching Fellow	Mural Painting Art Education	Penn. State Univ.	1948-49
Art Instructor	Art History, Art Education	Ala. State College	1949
Professor, Head Art Dept.	Composition, Painting, Sculpture, Art History Art Education	Texas Southern University	1949-present

<u>Awards</u>	<u>Museums</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Purchase Prize	Houston Museum of Fine Arts	1950
2. Schlunberger Prize	Houston Museum of Fine Arts	1951
3. Purchase Prize	Atlanta University, Georgia	1951
4. Purchase Prize	Dallas Museum of Fine Arts	1952
5. Purchase Prize	Atlanta University, Georgia	1953
6. Art Rental Prize	Houston Museum of Fine Arts	1955
7. National Society of Mural Painters	New York	1955

Commissions (Mural Painting)

1. U. S. Naval School, Hampton, Va.	Chicago	1944
2. United Transport Workers Labor Temple, C.I.O.		1946
3. Education Bldg., Penn State University		1949
4. Home for Aged, Houston, Texas		1952
5. Young Womens Christian Association, Houston, Texas		1953
6. Carver High School, Naples, Texas		1955

Exhibited:

1. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts	1943-44
2. Museum of Modern Art, New York	1944
3. M. Knoedler and Company ("Texas Artist")	1952
4. State Capitol Bldg., Austin, Texas	1951-53
5. Two Man Show, Houston Museum Fine Arts	1954
6. National Mural Painters Society, New York	1954-55-56

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. National Society of Mural Painters, New York
2. Committee on Art Education, Museum of Modern Art, New York

WORK PLAN:

Unesco fellowships cover a period of six months. Describe in detail the work you would propose to do if you were granted a fellowship. A clear and precise exposition of your work plan will facilitate successful arrangements in the country or countries of study and thus render the fellowship more effective.

I am interested in a research project covering certain aspects of native life in Gold Coast, Africa. The plan is as follows:

1. Gather written data on the Family life in regards to the economic, social and religious development of African people.
2. Make photographic studies and sketches of certain phases of contemporary life, architecture, and other art products.
3. Draw from gathered data sketches and cartoons that will lend themselves to the development of a mural.
4. Paint a mural and make a written report including photographic reproductions of the mural and important details.

The Relevant Features of Background and Interest

As an undergraduate art student at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, Negro art expression first became meaningful to me as a means of self-expression, self-adjustment, self-identification not only with the social and economic problems of the American Negro people but also with that contribution I felt it was in their power to make in the field of art. This nurtured the urge for establishing a relationship with the cultural achievement of the African Negro people.

Reasons or Qualifications for Undertaking Studies in this Field

With respect to my reasons and qualifications for undertaking studies in this field, I can say that it has been a life-long interest to me to explore that region of history that bridges the gap between African and American culture. To me this has been a region susceptible to rich discovery. I have long thought, particularly in cultural relationships, that much can be unearthed here that can be of real value to humankind and racial understanding. My years of study in this field, my six and one-half years of teaching, my current position as head of the art department at Texas Southern University, my actual painting of the Negro and his history, lead me to feel qualified to engage in this foreign study and research with the hope of accomplishing the desired aims and results. To this I must add

Places of study:  
Gold Coast, Africa

Professors or experts with whom you propose to work:

As Advisor  
Dr. Viktor Lowenfeld  
Penna. State Univ.

When would you wish to begin?

July 1, 1956



that the all-consuming urge that constantly burns within me to be able to bring out into the light for everyone what is good, what is true, what is meaningful and what may not yet be known, so that I may make my own contribution to the art and history of the Negro.

OBLIGATIONS OF FELLOW

If Unesco offers me the possibility to carry out my work programme, I agree to follow the regulations governing Unesco fellowships, and to send a report on my period of study to Unesco.

Signature of prospective fellow:

*John T. Biggers*

IF THE CANDIDATE HOLDS A POSITION IN HIS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, the following official statement is required from the authorities on whom the prospective fellow's employment after expiration of the fellowship depends.

To Unesco:

This is to give assurance that, should a fellowship be granted to

Name:

*John T. Biggers*

his present position of Professor and Head of the Department of Art will remain open to him on termination of the fellowship.

Signature:

*Everett O. Bell*

Title or Position: Assistant to President and Director of Personnel

Date and Place: January 13, 1956, Texas Southern University