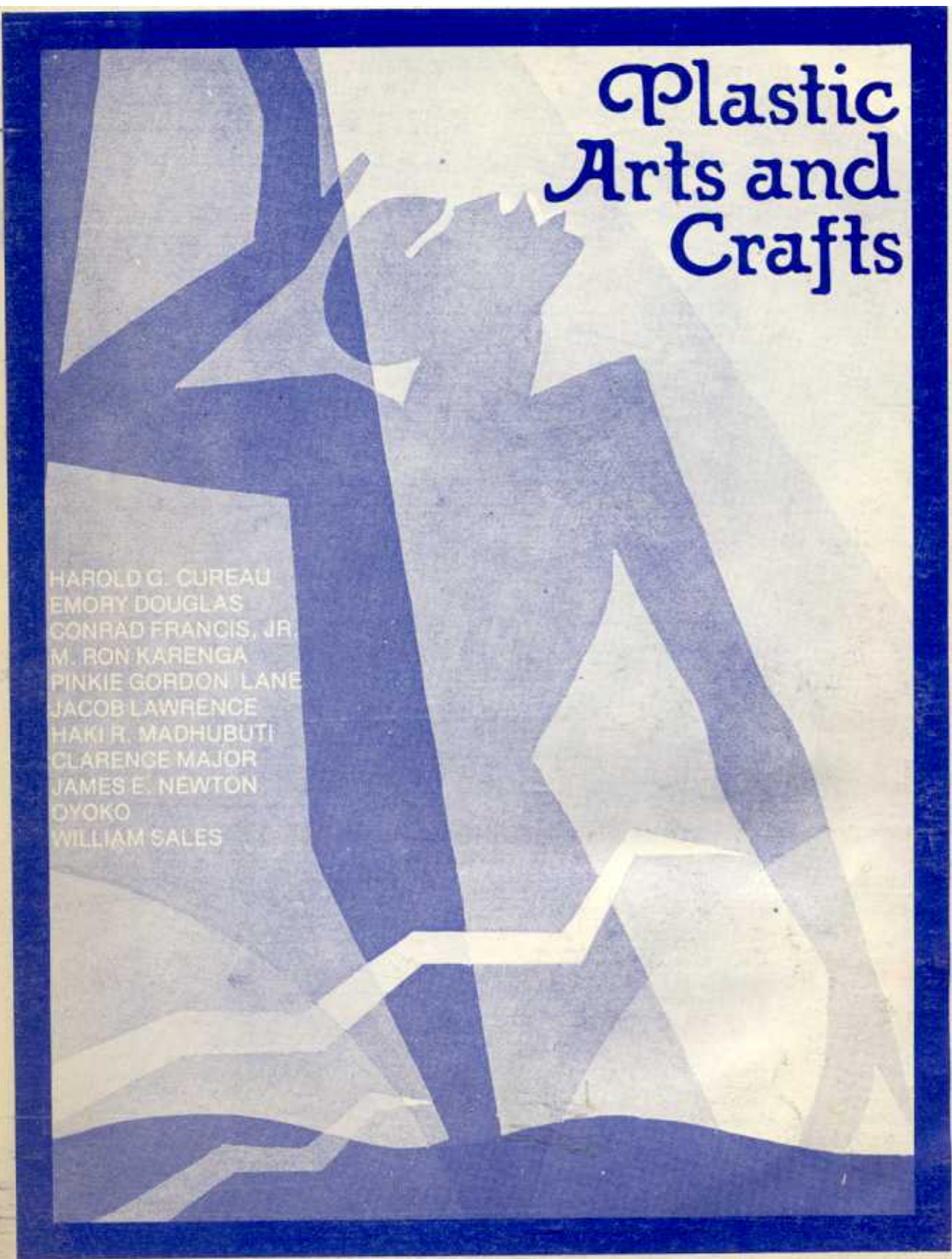


# THE BLACK SCHOLAR

## Plastic Arts and Crafts

HAROLD G. CUREAU  
EMORY DOUGLAS  
CONRAD FRANCIS, JR.  
M. RON KARENGA  
PINKIE GORDON LANE  
JACOB LAWRENCE  
HAKI R. MADHUBUTI  
CLARENCE MAJOR  
JAMES E. NEWTON  
OYOKO  
WILLIAM SALES



# ART IN SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE

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by Emory Douglas



Art is a part of the continuous process of life; therefore, the definition of art can't be absolute or a conclusion but an interpretation of the conditions that exist within society at a particular time. Some of the conditions that exist at this time are unemployment, denial of decent education, hunger, poor health care, high imprisonment of poor and black people, police brutality and murder, lack of decent housing and political corruption.

Because of the bitterness and suffering of poor people and black people in particular, black artists in America should strive to create images that will stimulate awareness of the wretched conditions that makes us the victims of America's racism. We cannot stimulate awareness of these conditions, for example, by painting landscapes that have no relationship to our survival. This is not to say that landscape art should not be done. Only if the landscape shows the bright side and dark side of life can it possibly have a significant meaning.

In order to create accurate images of awareness we must participate in the changing of society and understand the political nature of art, because there is no such thing as art for art's sake. By participating in the survival of our community we become aware of the needs of the people, of their desires and wants; therefore we can more accurately create positive images in our art that reflect the bright side and dark side of life and draw nearer to the ideal of what life should be.



