

### David C. Driskell on how *The Migration Series* speaks to us all

I think that what [Jacob Lawrence] wants, most importantly, is that we be in the picture because we are experiencing this very unusual aspect of *our* national history. It's something that—it's difficult to describe. When I use the term "cultural emancipation," I'm talking not only about what we experience and enjoy, but what we experience and dislike as well, those qualities in our democracy, in our society that we wish we could rid ourselves of. And yet, that's a part of our national history because of the sociological patterns of our lives—who we are, this conglomerate. If you have that in your background, it's not easy to dispel it—to put it aside—you have to deal with it. I think it's almost cinematic in the sense that he wants us to see it and realize that we're part and parcel—if there is a problem, we're part and parcel of it. So, it's we, it's you, it's me, I, thou, etc. It's the wholeness of who we are.

[1:46]

David C. Driskell in a tape-recorded interview with Elsa Smithgall, March 2015, The Phillips Collection Archives, Washington, DC

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*Note: Transcripts have been edited for clarity.*

