



# COMMENCEMENT

Spring 2023

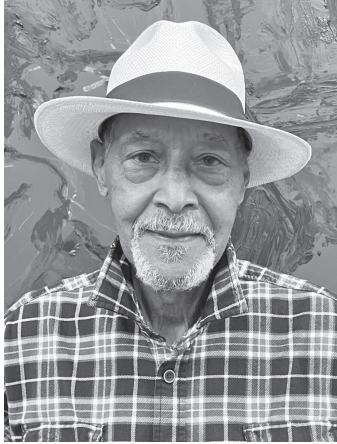
# HONORARY DEGREES

The University of Iowa, with approval from the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, confers honorary degrees to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in such areas as research, scholarship, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, humanitarian outreach, or as recognized by the faculty as being consistent with the values of higher education.

Honorary degrees may be conferred at commencement ceremonies in the appropriate college or at university convocations. Honorary degrees are typically conferred only when the honoree is present. On rare occasions, an honorary degree may be conferred in absentia.

The first honorary degree was awarded in 1962; no honorary degrees were conferred from June 1, 1981 to 2007. Over 40 honorary degrees have been awarded, and two have been approved but not yet conferred.

For more information on honorary degrees, or to see a list of award recipients, please visit [uiowa.edu/honorarydegrees](http://uiowa.edu/honorarydegrees).



# Oliver Lee Jackson

## Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

An internationally esteemed painter, sculptor, and printmaker, Oliver Lee Jackson has pursued his craft for more than 60 years. Jackson's creative work is rooted in the human figure and gesture, with a dynamic integration of figure and field. Jackson earned an MFA in art from the University of Iowa in 1963. His studies were supported by art and art history faculty Byron Burford, James Lechay, Charles Cuttler, and Wallace Tomasini, who provided financial assistance through teaching and work as a studio assistant. In 2022, two of his paintings from 1978 were purchased for the inaugural exhibition of the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art.

Oliver Lee Jackson is a recipient of a 2023 Lee Krasner Award for lifetime achievement from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation of New York. For six decades, he worked as an instructor, curriculum consultant, and visiting artist at numerous institutions with prestigious applied arts programs. He served as Assistant Director of the People's Art Center in St. Louis from 1963 to 1964; and was a founder and director of Program Uhuru at Pruitt & Igoe public housing from 1967 to 1968, created to bring to low-income, intergenerational African Americans a constructive means of developing dialogue through arts programs. Jackson was an advisor to the Black Artists Group in St. Louis from 1968 to 1972 and participated in many of BAG's artistic programs; during that time, he articulated the concept of an "African Continuum," which reflects a sensibility that persists across time within the African diaspora.

Jackson has maintained a studio in Oakland, California, since 1982. His works have been exhibited widely, including at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Seattle Art Museum, National Gallery of Art, and Museo do Arte Moderno in Rio de Janeiro, among others. His paintings, sculptures, and graphic works are featured in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York, Art Institute of Chicago, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Saint Louis Art Museum, and numerous others.



# Shirley Schermer

## Honorary Doctor of Science

Shirley Schermer earned an MA in anthropology from the University of Iowa in 1982. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as a skeletal biologist at the Office of the State Archaeologist and served as the first OSA Burials Program Director from 1987 until her retirement in 2014.

Through Schermer's dedication to archaeological research and advocacy, the University of Iowa and the State of Iowa became known worldwide for balancing the need for careful recovery and examination of human remains with respectful reinterment and preservation. In collaboration with Maria "Running Moccasins" Pearson, co-founder of the OSA Indian Advisory Committee, Schermer helped implement the Iowa Burials Law, which protects ancient burial sites in the state of Iowa.

Schermer and Pearson's efforts inspired the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. These best practices were later adopted by the World Archaeological Congress and other international organizations.

In 1998, when the University of Iowa acquired the Stanford-Meyer human osteological collection (now renamed the University of Iowa Stanford Collection), Schermer was instrumental in procuring multiple National Science Foundation grants to develop and sustain it. She also spearheaded the extensive restoration and process of cataloguing the early 20th-century remains while maintaining their physical stability and integrity.

During her esteemed career, Schermer has been a member of many state and national organizations, serving on the Education Committee of the Society of American Archaeology and the board of directors for the Iowa Archaeological Society, as well as chairing the Anthropology Section of the Iowa Academy of Science. In 1991, she was appointed by the governor to the State Preserves Advisory Board—later serving five years as chair. She was included in the *Plaza of the Heroines* at Carrie Chapman Catt Hall at Iowa State University in 1995 and received the Keyes Award from the Iowa Archaeological Society that same year.