

THE NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL KICKS OFF TODAY

FEST'S BEST



A detail of Jacob Lawrence's "The Lovers" is part of the "Over the Line" exhibit at the High Museum of Art.

visual arts

The Walter O. Evans collection of African American Art at Spelman College Gallery makes for a great overview. It encompasses 19th-century painters, among them Robert Duncanson and Edward Bannister, Harlem Renaissance proponents and modernists, but the highlight is the excellent selection of collages by Romare Bearden, who invented his own influential language.

"Over the Line: The Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence" at the High Museum of Art is not to be missed. The largest retrospective ever of this 20th-century original brings together a lifetime of his chronicling of African-American life and history. It's hard to resist his color and his passion, and it's interesting to watch his development.

Atlanta artist Donald Locke mines a vein of formal invention and magic in "From the Altars of El Dorado," at Solomon Projects. His sculptures are an intriguing amalgam of materials — wax, sticks, fringe — and allusions. "Shamanic MC's," at Kubatana Moderne, showcases the thoughtful and distinctive work of Atlanta artist Kevin Sipp. Call it fusion: He merges hip-hop with African ritual culture in mixed-media assemblages, music and poetry.

— Catherine Fox

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VISUAL ARTS

Atlanta artist **Donald Locke**, a native of Guyana, returns to his roots for inspiration, as reflected in an engaging City Gallery East exhibit of varied works from 1991 to the present. Included is the sculpture "Bush Die Die" (below).

Review, Q6

