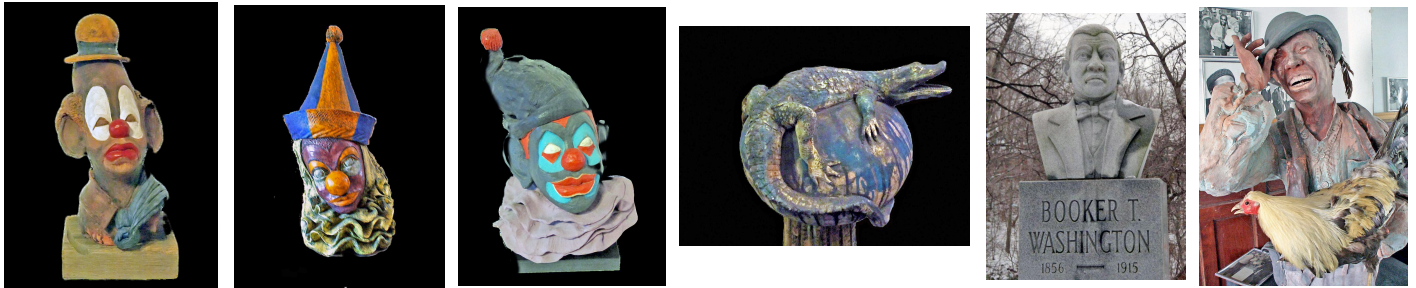


**Demonstration**  
**April 1, 2019**  
**Edward E. Parker - Master Artist**

We thank our April demonstrator, **Master Artist, Edward E. Parker**. Everyone enjoyed his presentation, "The Art Struggle". There were 31 members and 8 guests in attendance. Several of his past students came just to see him again. He brought many large prints for all to see and he talked about his life's work from images projected on the screen. We were amazed at the diversity of his art and even more fascinated by his philosophy of life (*we were able to capture some quotes, see below*). Mr. Parker has a vivid and broad imagination, as can be seen in his murals, drawings and his many themed sculptures. From his many sculptures, we enjoyed his series on "clowns, buffoons, and court jesters" inspired by his father; his "Africa on the Moon" sculpture; Booker T. Washington in the Cultural Garden on Liberty Blvd; his "Chicken George" sculpture representing Ben Vereen in Roots; and his "Ghetto Thinker".



His drawing of "Stove Pipe the Master Clown" won 1st place in a National Hammermill Paper contest. His drawing of "The Accession of Michael" was interesting, as were the many large, detailed, 40 x 60 drawings of Jesus hanging in a local church. Many of his murals can be seen on the side of garages and on the MLK Center and Taylor Academy. His mural of "Michael Jackson jumping off the roof" was imaginative. In this sculpture of the juggling jester, everyone ask how he made the clay balls float – he quipped, "that why I'm called Master!"



His first studio space was behind his family's old coal furnace. In the 4th grade he studied art at the Toledo Museum. Having failed six times between grades 4 and 8, he quickly learned to study hard. He studied art all over the world, on many continents....in Quito, Ecuador, in Mexico and Amsterdam, and at the University of Ife in Africa. He has art degrees from Central State, Kent State, and Illinois State. He was the coordinator and professor of art at the Tri-C Western Campus for over 20 years. He also taught art at Audubon Junior High School. Mr. Parker is now 78 years old.

*Mr. Parker's philosophical quotes from the evening:*

- *If you want to be successful, do the 4 "C's" – Curious, Confidence, Courage, Consistency. He later added a 5th – Currency!*
- *Give praise and glory to God. Own everything, be self-sufficient.*
- *Work hard, relax hard.*
- *I admire the ones who stay with it. Life is designed for you to quit. But don't quit.*
- *I do art like I walk....by faith.*
- *Hide your best pieces because I'm here to steal. (A take off from Picasso's quote: Bad artists copy. Good artists steal.)*

Mr Parker is not only a man of many artist talents, but of many accomplishments. In addition to being an artist, sculptor, muralist, he's also an educator, entrepreneur, retired professor, and proprietor of a B&B. Mr. Parker sits on the East Cleveland school board. Along with others, he transformed the lower level of the Karamu House into an art gallery. He remodels houses. He purchased and rehabbed an old building, formerly a nursing home for wealthy alcoholics in Cleveland's early history. That is where he established the EEP Museum of Art that displays his artworks. He established the Snickerfritz Cultural Workshop for the Arts, Inc. in 1974. Snickerfritz was his nickname as a kid! He also writes poetry (not yet published). To relax, he plays the flute. What's his next event? It's the Annual Collard Green Cook-Off and Arts Festival, where he gives a \$500 scholarship award to an aspiring art student. Mr. Parker is an amazing man with an amazing career!



Springtime, along with a visit from the Easter bunnies, was the theme for the evening's refreshments. We thank our hosts **Kelley Davis** and **Sue Herrie**. They prepared so many tasty and homemade treats – bruschetta, spinach dip, tortellini skewers, lemon yogurt cake, brownie bites and two kinds of cookies, butterscotch and lemon. There was a lot of food, but we had a hungry crowd.....everything disappeared!

