

Charles Wilbert White (American 1918-1979), *The Drinker*, tempera on artist panel, 1937

Born in Chicago in 1918, Charles W. White is one of America's most renowned and recognized African-American & Social Realist artists. Charles White worked primarily in black & white or sepia & white drawings, paintings, and lithographs. His artwork encompassed an incredibly skilled draftsmanship and artistic sensitivity and power that has reached and moved millions.

His meticulously executed drawings and paintings speak of and affirm the humanity and beauty of African American people and culture. Common subjects of his artwork included scenes depicting African-American history in the United States, socio-economic struggles, human relationships, and portraits.

His career began and flourished in Chicago's WPA Federal Art Project. This painting was done when White was a teenager and is recognized by scholars as White's s first major work in what became his identifiable style