

**William Elijah Smith** (American 1913-1997),  
*Native Son*, linocut print, 1938; *Wm Johnson  
as Emperor Jones*, linocut print 1939

William Elijah Smith left Memphis, Tennessee at age 12 to take up a new life in Cleveland, Ohio. Smith became affiliated with Karamu House, a center for the arts and the Federal Art and Federal Theater Projects in Cleveland. Smith did *Native Son* as part of a print project there. *Wm Johnson as Emperor Jones* was executed to honor a performance of the play *Emperor Jones* produced by Karamu House and financed by the Federal Theater Project.