

**Maryland Commission on Artistic Property
PROPOSED DONATION FORM**

❖ **Object Information:**

Artist/Maker: Simmie Knox (b. 1935)

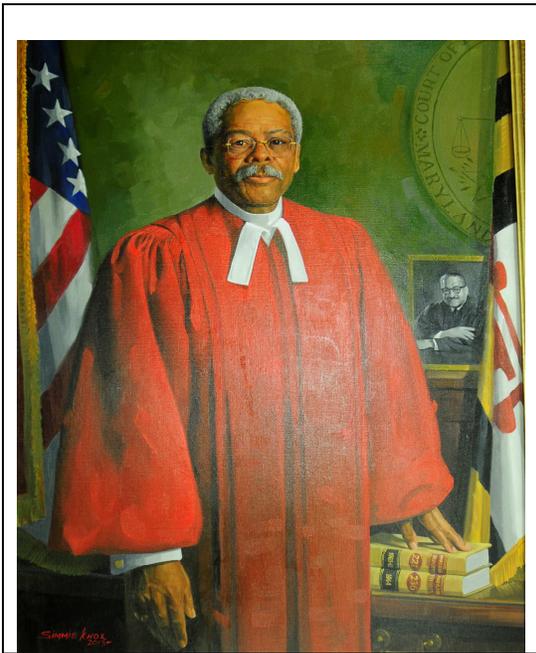
Title: *Robert M. Bell* (b. 1943)

Date: 2013

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 52¹/₈" x 40³/₈" x 3³/₄" (framed)

❖ **Images:**



❖ **General Information:**

This portrait painting was commissioned by the Maryland Judiciary in honor of Chief Judge Robert M. Bell's 38 years of service on the bench. Judge Bell served as a judge at every level of the Maryland judiciary system, and served as chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals from 1996-2013. He was the first African American to serve as chief judge. This portrait includes a photograph of Thurgood Marshall and two volumes of *Maryland Reports* that relate to the landmark case *Bell v. Maryland*.

Simmie Knox is a Maryland artist who specializes in portraiture. Previous commissions of note include former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Former First Lady Hillary Clinton, and the Honorable Thurgood Marshall, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court. He has several works in the state-owned art collection, including Judge Harry A. Cole displayed in the Courts of Appeals Building.

❖ **Provenance:**

Commissioned by the Maryland Judiciary for display in the Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building in Annapolis.

❖ **Curatorial Recommendation:**

The curatorial staff recommends the transfer of this painting from the Maryland Court of Appeals to the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property because it is the official portrait of the most-recent chief judge of the court. The state-owned art collection currently has 22 portraits of the 23 former chief judges of the Maryland Court of Appeals, this transfer will continue the tradition of having these official portraits owned by MSA. This painting will be prominently exhibited outside of the Court of Appeals Chamber on the fourth floor of the Courts of Appeal Building.

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❖ **Object Information:**

Artist/Maker: Harvey Lewis (design), W. J. Meer (etching), and W. Rose Sr. (blade)

Title: *Gold Eagle Pommel Presentation Sword of Lt. Joseph Cross*

Date: 1828

Medium: Gold, ivory, and steel

Dimensions: 32" x 4 ½"

Accession Number: MSA SC 1862

❖ **Images:**



❖ **General Information:**

This gold eagle pommel presentation sword was presented to Lt. Joseph Cross (d. 1834) in 1828. It is one of three ceremonial swords commissioned by the Maryland General Assembly on March 14, 1828 to honor Marylanders Lt. Henry E. Ballard, Lt. Joseph Cross, and Lt. Isaac Mayo. These swords were commissioned to honor the men's heroism and patriotism while serving in the United States Navy during the War of 1812.

Cross served on the USS *Constitution*. His involvement in three major engagements with British warships was memorialized in the etched details on the sword.

❖ **Provenance:**

Commissioned by the Maryland General Assembly, 1828; donated to the State of Maryland in 1890; accessioned into the Maryland State Archives Department of Special Collection in 1986.

❖ **Curatorial Recommendation:**

The curatorial staff recommends the transfer of this ceremonial sword from the Maryland State Archives Special Collections Department to the inventory of the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property because of its provenance, historic significance and highly decorative appearance. Artistic property staff has traditionally cared for, displayed and interpreted this sword for a number of years.

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❖ **Object Information:**

Artist/Maker: Simmie Knox (b. 1935)

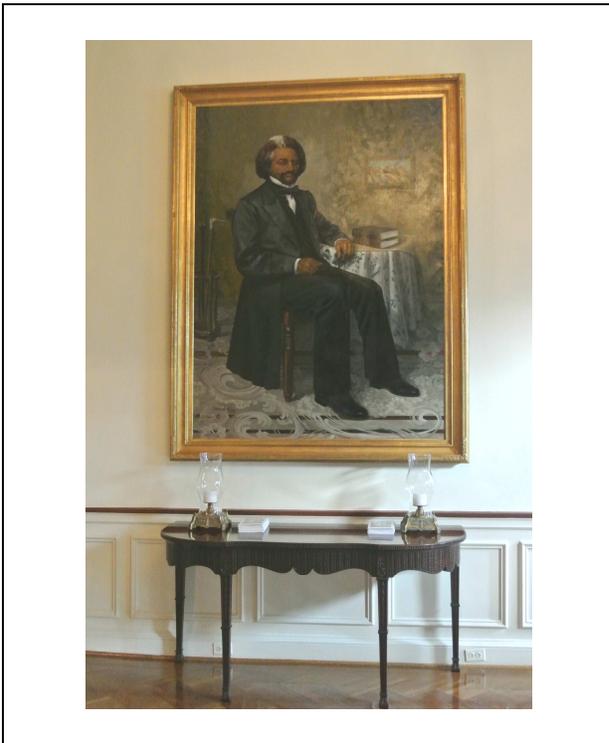
Title: *Frederick Douglass* (1818-1895)

Date: 2014

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 81¼" x 60 ⅛" (framed)

❖ **Image:**



❖ **General Information:**

This historic portrait was commissioned by the Friends of the Maryland State Archives through the generous support of Eddie and Sylvia Brown. It was specifically painted for the Entrance Hall of Government House and is based on photographs of Douglass taken in the 1860s. It is considered the first portrait of an African-American to be displayed in Government House.

Douglass is depicted around the age of 50, seated at a table with a copy of *The North Star*, the abolitionist newspaper he began publishing in the late 1840s, along with editions of his two autobiographies, *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845) and *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855). On the wall is a depiction of the wharfs of Fells Point during

the period in the 1830s when Douglass worked there as a slave, learning the trades that enabled him to impersonate a sailor for his escape to freedom.

Also depicted are two walking sticks belonging to Douglass, one with his monogram, and the other given to him by Mary Todd Lincoln after her husband's assassination, as a token of President Lincoln's respect and affection for the great abolitionist.

Simmie Knox is a Maryland artist who specializes in portraiture. Previous commissions of note include former US President Bill Clinton, Former First Lady Hillary Clinton, and the Honorable Thurgood Marshall, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court.

❖ **Provenance:**

Commissioned by the Friends of the Maryland State Archives in 2014.

❖ **Curatorial Recommendation:**

The curatorial staff recommends the transfer of this portrait from the Friends of the Maryland State Archives to the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property because the state-owned art collection does not have a portrait of Frederick Douglass. As such, this painting takes on great significance for Maryland. The portrait will be prominently displayed in the Entry Hall at Government House.

Maryland Commission on Artistic Property
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❖ **Object Information:**

Artist/Maker: Bibb

Title: *Ceremonial Dress Sword of Lt. Colonel Tench Tilghman*

Date: c. 1772

Medium: Silver and steel

Dimensions 30" blade

Accession Number: MSA SC 4873

Artist/Maker: Unknown maker

Title: *Tilghman family small sword*

Date: 17th or 18th century

Medium: Silver and steel

Dimensions: 28" blade

Accession Number: MSA SC 4873

❖ **Images:**



❖ **General Information:**

These swords belonged to Lieutenant Colonel Trench Tilghman (1744-1786), a trusted aide-de-camp to George Washington throughout the Revolutionary War. Tilghman's ceremonial dress sword (the larger one) is depicted in the monumental portrait *Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown* (MSA SC 1545-1120) arguably the most important painting in the state-owned art collection. Tilghman likely carried this sword with him throughout the war.

The short sword is purported to have belonged to Trench Tilghman's great-great grandfather, Matthew Turbutt.

❖ **Provenance:**

Long sword: Lt. Colonel Trench Tilghman, c. 1772; by descent to Judith Goldsborough Oates; donated to the State of Maryland, 1998; accessioned into the Maryland State Archives Department of Special Collections, 1998.

Short sword: According to family tradition: Michael Turbutt, d. 1694-96; by descent to Lt. Colonel Trench Tilghman; by descent to Judith Goldsborough Oates; donated to the State of Maryland, 1998; accessioned into the Maryland State Archives Department of Special Collections, 1998.

❖ **Curatorial Recommendation:**

The curatorial staff recommends the transfer of these swords from the Maryland State Archives Special Collections Department to the inventory of the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property because of its provenance, historic significance and highly decorative appearance. Artistic property staff has traditionally cared for, displayed and interpreted these swords for a number of years.

These two swords will be displayed as part of the new exhibits created as part of the restoration of the Old Senate Chamber. They will be displayed adjacent to the portrait *Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown* in a custom-designed case in the Senate Committee Room.

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❖ **Object Information:**

Artist/Maker: Thomas Fletcher (1787-1866)

Title: *Presentation sword for Colonel Nathan Tomson* (1784-1854)

Date: 1834

Medium: Yellow gold and steel

Dimensions: Overall L 37" x W 5"; blade L 31" x W 1 1/8"

Accession Number: MSA SC 2149-1-1

❖ **Images:**



❖ **General Information:**

This presentation sword and scabbard were commissioned by the Maryland General Assembly, Resolution 63 of the Acts of 1832 for Colonel Nathan Towson's (1784-1854) gallant service during the War of 1812. The sword was made by noted artisan Thomas Fletcher, and is noted for its exceptional craftsmanship and highly ornamented design. The names of the decisive battles in which Towson fought are inscribed on the sword. Also incorporated in the design of the sword is Maryland State Seal created by Charles Willson Peale in 1794.

❖ **Provenance:**

Commissioned by the Maryland General Assembly, Resolution 63 of the Acts of 1832; Col. Nathan Towson; acquired by the State of Maryland prior to 1956 when Governor Theodore McKeldin loaned it to the Maryland Historical Society; donated to the Maryland State

Archives by Joseph Katz, date unknown; accessioned in the Maryland State Archives Department of Special Collections.

❖ **Curatorial Recommendation:**

The curatorial staff recommends the transfer of this ceremonial sword from the Maryland State Archives Special Collections Department to the inventory of the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property because of its provenance, historic significance and highly decorative appearance. Artistic property staff has traditionally cared for, displayed and interpreted this sword for a number of years.

**Maryland Commission on Artistic Property
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❖ **Object Information:**

Artist/Maker: Brendan Thorpe O'Neill, Sr. (b. 1942)

Title: *Harriet Tubman* (c. 1822-1913)

Date: 2014

Medium: Bronze

Dimensions: 19"h x 12"w x 12"d.

Artist/Maker: *McMartin & Beggins Cabinetmakers*

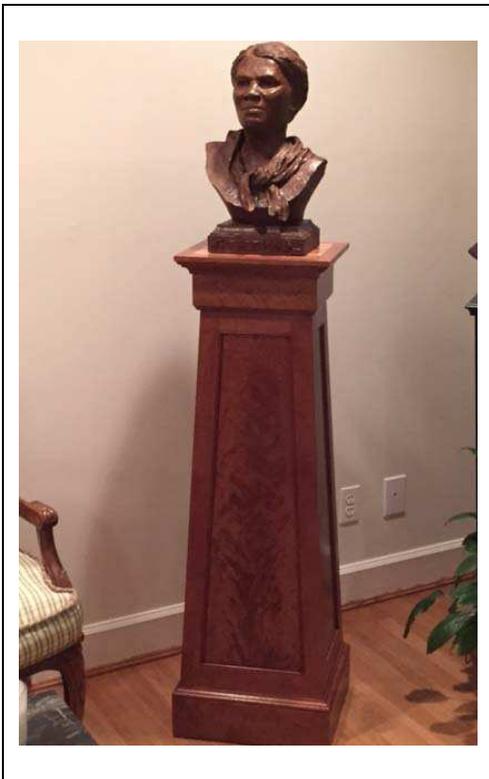
Title: *Pedestal*

Date: 2014

Medium: Oak and sweet gum

Dimensions: 48" tall; 16" x 14" base; 11.5" x 9.5" capital with a 14" x 12" platform on which the bust sits.

❖ **Image:**



❖ **General Information:**

Harriet Tubman was born a slave c. 1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland, escaped from slavery in 1849, and became perhaps the most well-known "conductor" on the Underground

Railroad. She is credited with saving more than 300 slaves to freedom. The portrait bust depicts Harriet Tubman as a young woman in her thirties, soon after her escape from slavery and at the beginning of her Underground Railroad endeavors. The word "FREEDOM" and broken chains appear on the base of the bust.

The artist consulted a variety of published sources and worked with a number of scholars, Tubman descendants, members and trustees of the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center, and members of the African American Community in Dorchester County. Particular contributions were made by Valerie and Charles Ross, Donald Pinder, and Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, among many others. The bust was cast at Valley Bronze in Joseph, Oregon.

The pedestal was crafted to display the Tubman bust, and contains wood from the Wye Oak and a sweet gum tree. The 460-year-old Wye Oak, stood in the town of Wye Mills in Talbot County, was blown down in 2002. The sweet gum tree was harvested from a Century Farm in Dorchester County.

❖ **Provenance:**

The portrait bust and its pedestal were commissioned by the Maryland Department of General Services for display at Government House.

❖ **Curatorial Recommendation:**

The curatorial staff recommends the transfer of the portrait bust and accompanying pedestal from the Maryland Department of General Services to the inventory of the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property because of their artistic merit and historical significance. The bust will soon be presented to Governor Martin O'Malley for prominent display in one of the public rooms in Government House.

Brendan Thorpe O'Neill, Sr. is an accomplished sculpture artist who concentrates in the bronze medium and specializes in portrait busts. Mr. O'Neill is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and now resides in Maryland. He has made several portrait busts of historic Native American chieftains, and has several life-sized busts displayed in public locations within Maryland. The pedestal was created by Jim McMartin and Jim Beggins, the cabinetmakers who built the ceremonial Wye Oak Desk for the use of all future governors of Maryland, as well as the Wye Oak Lectern used in the Governor's Reception Room in the State House.