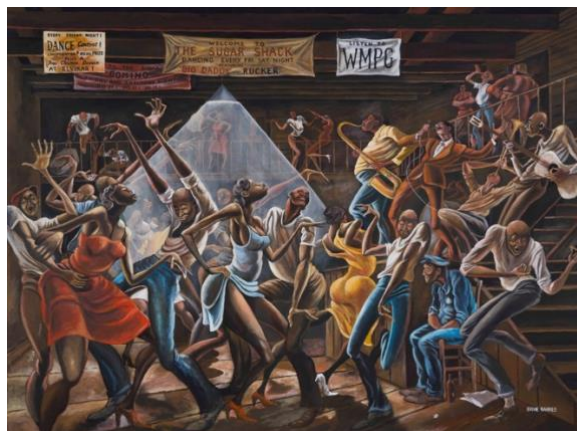


BLANTON MUSEUM 卨 ART



MEDIA ALERT: Iconic 1970s painting *The Sugar Shack* comes to the Blanton

WHAT: Visitors to the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin can view *The Sugar Shack*, Ernie Barnes's famous masterpiece featuring dancing figures in a crowded Black music hall in segregated mid-century North Carolina.

The Sugar Shack became a Black cultural icon after the first version was featured on the cover of the 1976 Marvin Gaye album, *I Want You*. That same year, Barnes created this second version, which garnered wider fame when it was added to the end credits of the groundbreaking sitcom *Good Times* and became a popular printed reproduction. The painting is on loan to the Blanton from Houston collectors Lara and Bill Perkins, who acquired it at a record-smashing auction last year.

WHEN: *The Sugar Shack* will be on view starting Tuesday, November 7, 2023, through November 10, 2024.

WHERE: *The Sugar Shack* will be on view in the Blanton's American art galleries, alongside earlier works of social realism, including Philip Evergood's *Dance Marathon* and Thomas Hart Benton's *Romance*.

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About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

About Ernie Barnes:

Ernest Eugene Barnes, Jr. (1938–2009) grew up in Durham, North Carolina, during the Jim Crow era. He was inspired to paint *The Sugar Shack* as a teenager, after sneaking into the Durham Armory. This famed venue in North Carolina hosted segregated dances and musicians like Duke Ellington, and still exists today. “It was the first time my innocence met with the sins of dance,” he recalled in an interview in 2008. Barnes became the captain of his high school football team, and in college he majored in art on an athletic scholarship. He played professional football for the NFL into the mid-1960s, before devoting himself full time to painting, in Los Angeles.

Image Caption:

Ernie Barnes, *The Sugar Shack*, 1976, acrylic on canvas, Collection of William O. Perkins III and Lara K. Perkins, © Ernie Barnes Family Trust