

Painting # 26

The Hewitt Collection
The Grant Center, Charlotte NC

Title: *Jammin' at the Savoy*

Artist: Romare Bearden

(United States, Charlotte, NC, lived most of life in New York)

Date of Painting: 1981

(Style, Social Realism, Harlem Renaissance)

At an early age Romare Bearden moved to New York City. He lived near the Savoy Ballroom and his experiences there encouraged him to paint this painting. The Savoy was a place where music and dance merged. Musicians would play both jazz and blues music as they wished. This spirit of make it up and improvise became part of his style. He was both an artist and song writer. He wrote the hit song titled "Sea Breeze." The New York Times called him one of America's preeminent artists.

Romare Bearden's paintings and art work have been shown at the Museum of Modern Art, Library of Congress, Art Institute of Chicago, and National Gallery of Art. His mural in Pittsburgh was valued at \$15,000,000.