Beauford Delaney

Beauford Delaney was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1901. He is an internationally renowned artist. The young Delaney’s precocious talent was recognized by Lloyd Branson (1853-1925), Knoxville’s first full-time professional artist, who mentored Beauford and his brother Joseph. Delaney moved to New York City in 1929, he became friends with many famous artists, like Georgia O’Keeffe and Henry Miller. His friend James Baldwin, a famous writer, had the most significant influence on Beauford Delaney.

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Yaddo was painted at a creative retreat north of New York City, which Delaney attended at his good friend James Baldwin’s urging. The pastel scene depicts the interior of the retreat’s greenhouse as a sanctuary of natural light and geometric form.

Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris)
Yaddo, 1950
Pastel on paper, 18 x 24 inches
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2017 purchase with funds provided by the Rachael Patterson Young Art Acquisition Reserve
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