

Clementine Hunter

Clementine Hunter was born to former slaves on a Louisiana plantation in the late 1880s. Her father moved the family to Melrose, a cotton plantation that employed many of the African-American and Creole people along the Cane River. Hunter worked at Melrose, first as a field worker, then as the plantation cook, and finally as an artist, until the end of her life. Hunter is the most famous female artist to have come from Louisiana. She is also hailed as one of the most important folk artists of all time. She is estimated to have created as many as five thousand pieces during her career, which lasted until her death in 1998. Her work is featured in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of American Folk Art in New York. Her paintings have been shown throughout the country, including an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.