

"I feel that art's highest function is that of a mirror, reflecting the innermost beauty and divinity of the human spirit; and is most effective when it calls the viewer to remember one's highest self..."

~ Kadir Nelson

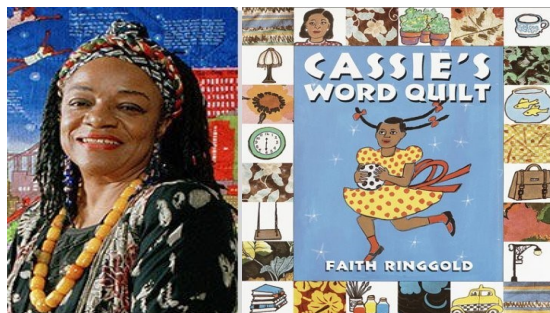
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Faith Ringgold, painter, writer, speaker, mixed media sculptor and performance artist, lives and works in Englewood, New Jersey. Ms Ringgold is professor emeritus at the University of California, San Diego where she taught art from 1987 until 2002. She is the recipient of more than 75 awards.

Ringgold's art has been exhibited in museums and galleries around the world.

Ringgold has completed sixteen children's books including *Tar Beach*, *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad In The Sky*, *My Dream of Martin Luther King* and *Talking to Faith Ringgold* (an autobiographical interactive art book for children of all ages.) *If a Bus Could Talk; The Story of Ms. Rosa Parks* won the NAACP's Image Award.

www.faithringold.com

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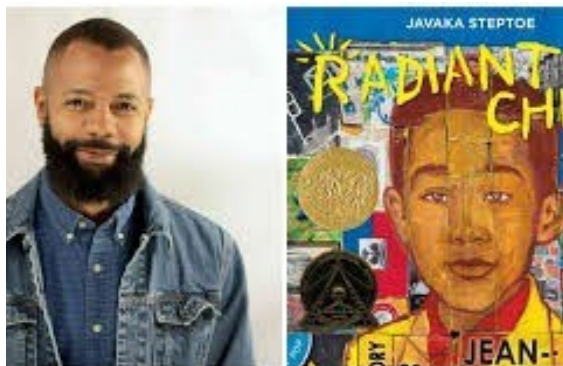
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Once a model and inspiration for his late father, award winning author/illustrator Javaka Steptoe has established himself as an outstanding illustrator in his own right. Utilizing everyday objects, from aluminum plates to pocket lint, and sometimes illustrating with a jigsaw and paint, he delivers reflective and thoughtful collage creations filled with vitality, playful energy, and strength.

www.javaka.com

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Eku Holmes is a native of Roxbury, MA and a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, who has devoted her practice to sustaining contemporary Black Art traditions in Boston, as an artist, curator of exhibitions, and as an active member of Boston's art community.

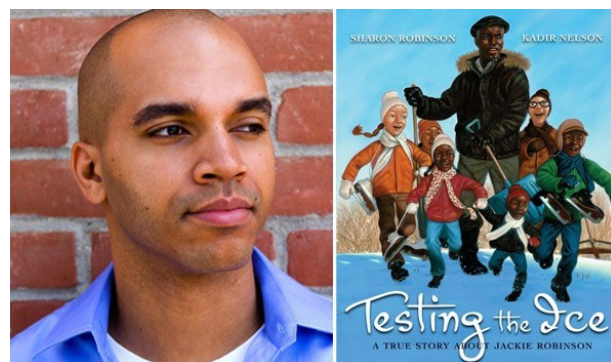
In the fall of 2015, the book, *Voice of Freedom, Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* was released featuring illustrations by Holmes. In 2016 the book garnered a Caldecott Honor, a Robert F. Sibert Honor, the Flora Stieglitz Strauss Award from Bank Street College and is a Boston Globe-Horn Book Nonfiction Honor Book. In addition for her *Voice of Freedom* illustrations, Holmes won the Society of Illustrators Original Art Silver medal and the Coretta Scott King John Steptoe award for New Talent.

www.ekuaholmes.com

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Kadir Nelson is an American artist who currently exhibits his artwork in galleries and museums nationwide and abroad. His paintings are in the private and public permanent collections of several notable institutions including the Muskegon Museum of Art, The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, the International Olympic Committee, and the US House of Representatives.

Nelson has also authored and illustrated several award-winning NYT Best-Selling picture books including, "WE ARE THE SHIP: The Story of Negro League Baseball" and "Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans."