



## Artist Profile

### Faith Ringgold

Faith Ringgold was born October 8, 1930, in New York City. She grew up and remained in Harlem, attended the City College of New York, and taught art in New York public schools and at the University of San Diego. She became active in politics and particularly the civil-rights movement, making statements through her artworks. She continued to express issues concerning politics involving black and feminist issues, creating an opportunity for African-American artists. She was known for her paintings, sculptures, books, and quilt stories.

Throughout the 1970s, Ringgold explored fiber arts, soft sculptures, and by the 1980s, she was making her first story quilts. She was inspired by her mother's career as a fashion designer and surrounded by many storytellers in her life. She incorporated written narratives along with her painted quilts to tell the story. "The story quilts grew out of my need to tell stories not with pictures or symbols alone, but with words," noted the artist in Faith Ringgold: A 25 Year Survey.

She has written and illustrated eleven children's books, received more than 75 awards, fellowships, citations and honors. Among her books are the *Caldecott Honor Book*, *Tar Beach*, *Aunt Harriett's Underground Railroad in the Sky*, *Cassie's Word Quilt*, and *My Dream of Martin Luther King*.



*The Sunflower Quilting Bee at Arles*, 1991, acrylic on canvas, tie-dyed, pieced fabric border, 74" x 80", private collection. Image shown with the kind permission of Faith Ringgold.  
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