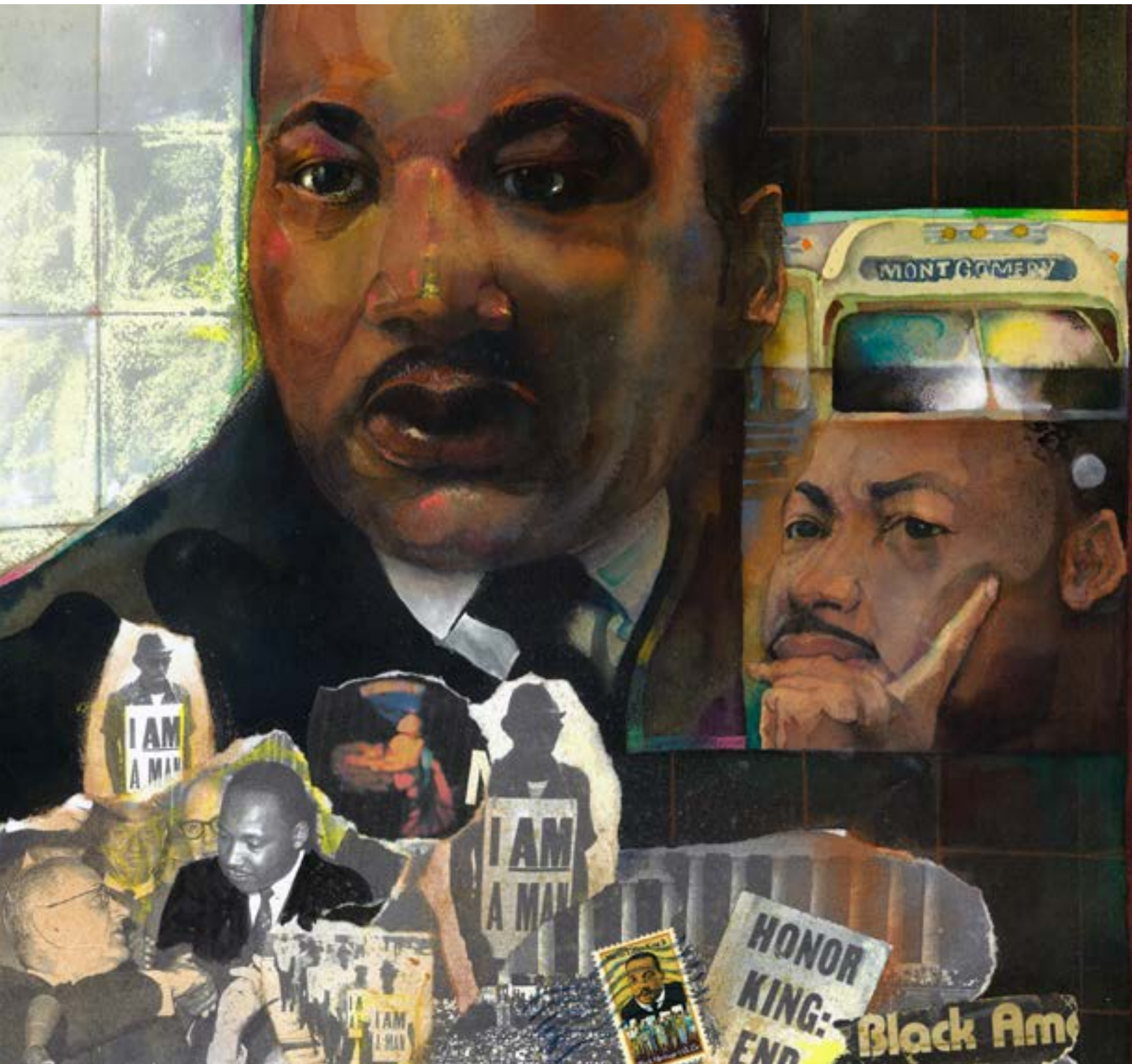


GREAT AMERICAN HEROES: THE ART OF JERRY PINKNEY



LEARN & CREATE BOOKLET

Woodmere
ArtMuseum

Cover: **Martin Luther King: Standing Up for Freedom** (detail), 1974-2017,
by Jerry Pinkney (Courtesy of the artist)

WELCOME!

Woodmere is using the art of children's illustrator, Jerry Pinkney, to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who have worked for civil rights.

Jerry Pinkney's portraits of people in American history portray the resilience, hope and determination of the human spirit in the pursuit of equality and freedom. These illustrations were selected from the large number of paintings Pinkney has created over the years for books and other projects.

Pinkney was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Germantown. He has illustrated over one hundred books and received many awards including a Caldecott Medal and several Coretta Scott King Awards, among others.

Please use this booklet to learn about many people involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Create your own portraits of these people using markers, colored pencils, crayons, or watercolors.



Jerry Pinkney
American, born 1939

Moses of Her People

1996

Pencil, watercolor, and collage on
Arches watercolor paper

*From Minty: A Story of Young Harriet
Tubman*

Courtesy of the artist

Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) was born into slavery in Maryland. Having endured the cruel conditions and injustices of slavery, she found the courage to escape in her mid-twenties, traveling by herself along the Underground Railroad, from Maryland to Philadelphia. She became a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, risking her life by returning to the South many times to rescue family members and others enslaved. Tubman became known as “Moses of Her People” for leading many to freedom.

During the Civil War, Tubman served as a nurse, scout, and spy for the Union Army and was the first woman to lead a Union military raid on a Confederate outpost that liberated over seven hundred enslaved people.

FYI:

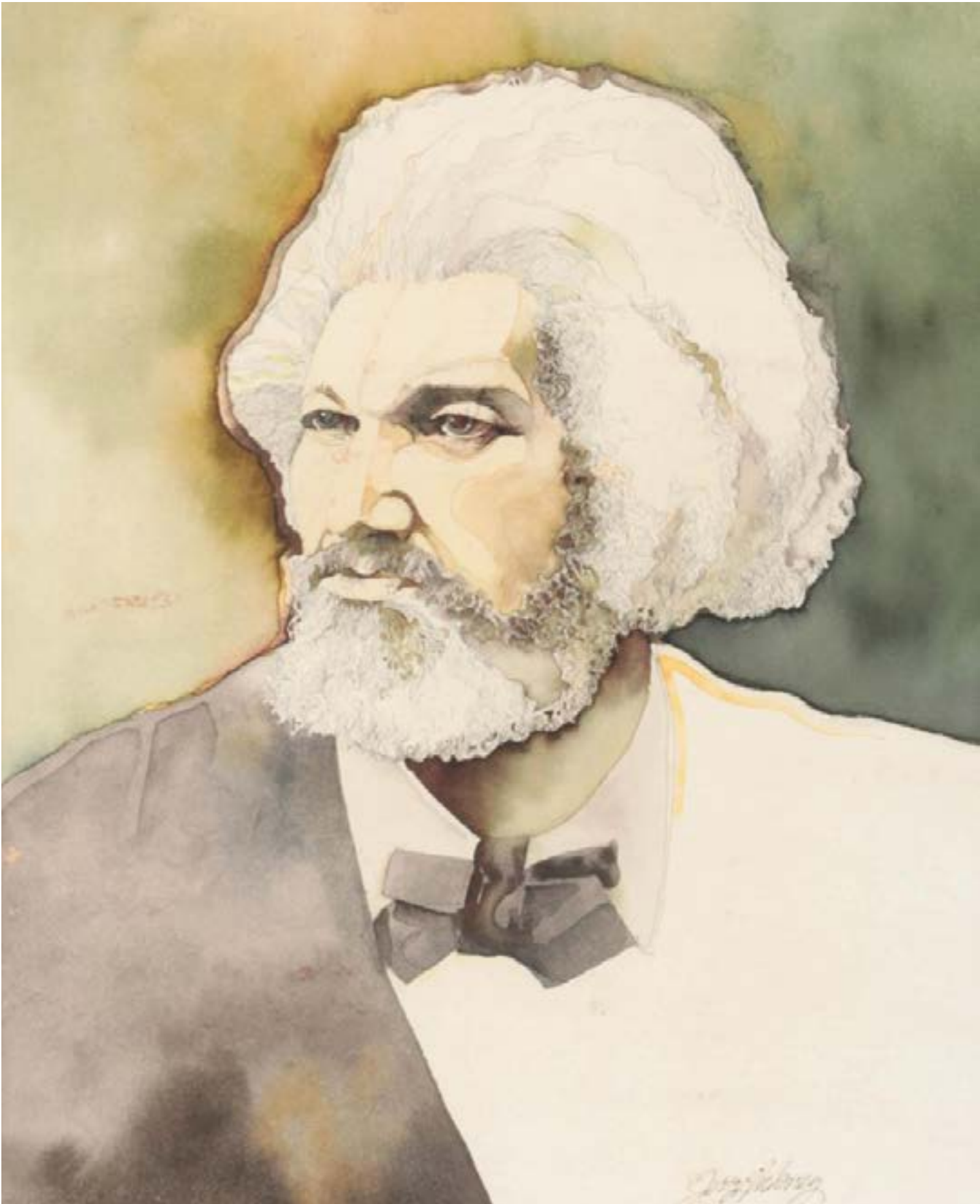
The Underground Railroad was not a real railway. It was a secret organization for a system of safe houses and travel routes providing escape from enslavement in the South and a path to freedom in the North and Canada.

The Underground Railroad used railroad terms to describe its organization. People escaping slavery were called “passengers”; people who led others along the route were called “conductors”; safe houses where people hid along the way were called “stations.”



"I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty, or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other..."

Harriet Tubman



Portrait of Frederick Douglass

1973

Watercolor and pencil on wove paper
laid down on illustration board

Museum purchase, 2020

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was born into slavery in Maryland. As a young boy, he was sold to a family in Baltimore where the master's wife began teaching him to read. During those days, it was illegal to teach reading to those enslaved. When her husband found out, he ended the lessons. Douglass persevered and taught himself to read and write and went on to teach other enslaved people.

In the years that followed his escape from slavery, Douglass wrote articles and books that told his story. He gave powerful speeches that made the abolition of slavery a crucial, national issue. He urged Black men to enlist in the Union Army to defend their own liberty and met with President Lincoln to demand equal treatment for Black soldiers.

Douglass is known as a leader in the abolitionist movement and a force of change in this country. He dedicated his life to the fight for human rights and was an inspiration for the Civil Rights Movement.



"Some know the value of education by having it.
I knew its value by not having it."

Frederick Douglass



**Untitled (Jackie Robinson as a
Brooklyn Dodger)**

1982

Watercolor and graphite on paper

Museum purchase, 2019

On opening day of the 1947 baseball season, Jackie Robinson (1919-1972) became the first African American to play major league ball.

Born in Georgia, Robinson was raised by a single mother and grew up in California. He excelled in sports, and attended UCLA, becoming the first athlete to win varsity letters in baseball, basketball, football, and track.

Robinson was drafted into the army during WWII and promoted to the rank of lieutenant, despite the prejudice that prevented most African Americans from becoming officers. He was later court-martialed for refusing to move to the back of an Army bus, but was acquitted of the charges and received an honorable discharge.

Though Robinson's performance with the Brooklyn Dodgers helped lead the team to six league championships and a World Series victory, he was often challenged by threats, racial violence, and aggression on the playing field. After retiring from baseball, he used his status as a star athlete to gain support for the Civil Rights Movement and worked with Dr. King at rallies, fundraising events, and demonstrations.

Dr. King told Robinson, "You have made every Negro in America proud through your baseball prowess and your inflexible demand for equal opportunity for all."



"The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time."

Jackie Robinson



Rosa Parks:

Sitting Down for Freedom

c. 1991-1992

Pencil and watercolor on Arches
watercolor paper

Courtesy of the artist

Rosa Parks (1913—2005) lived in Montgomery, Alabama, during a time when segregation, or the separation of people by race, was legal in the South. This meant that Black Americans were restricted to different water fountains, schools, parks, restaurants, and other places than white people. It also required Black people to ride in the back of city buses.

One December day in 1955, Rosa Parks was coming home by bus from a long day of work. She refused to give up her seat to a white man and was arrested. This action inspired Dr. King and other Black leaders to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott, where Black people would refuse to ride the city buses as a protest against racial segregation. Since a majority of the bus riders were Black, they knew this would cause financial problems for the system. The boycott lasted 382 days and ended only when the Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional and Black people had equal rights to sit wherever they wanted on a bus.

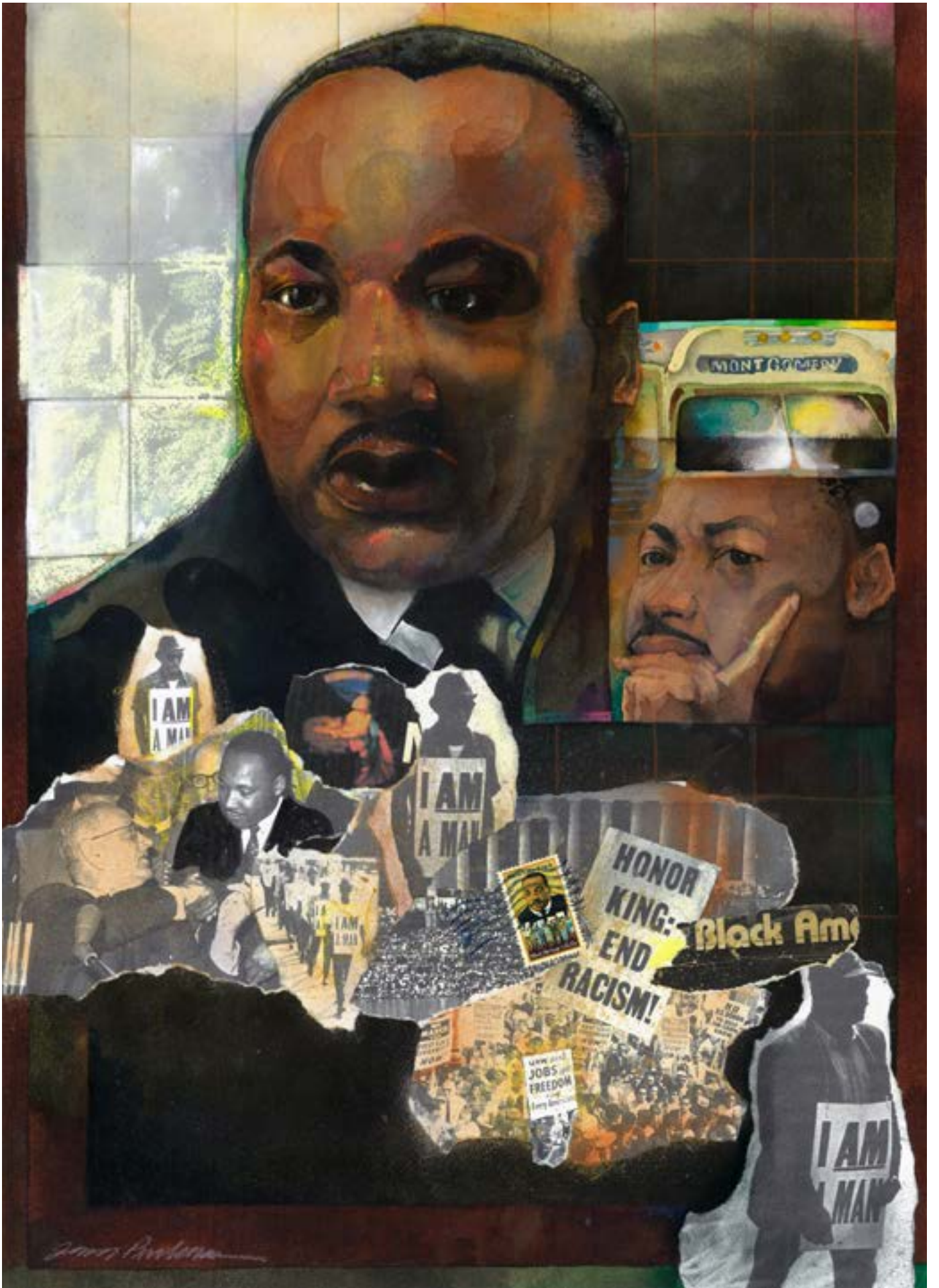
For many years, Rosa Parks was actively involved in voter registration, youth outreach, and pursuing legal remedies for racial injustice. Her actions, along with others in Montgomery, helped turn a local struggle into a national movement. She became a national symbol of dignity and strength in the struggle to end racial segregation.



“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically...

No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

Rosa Parks



**Martin Luther King:
Standing Up for Freedom**
1974-2017

Pencil, watercolor, and collage on
Arches watercolor paper

Courtesy of the artist

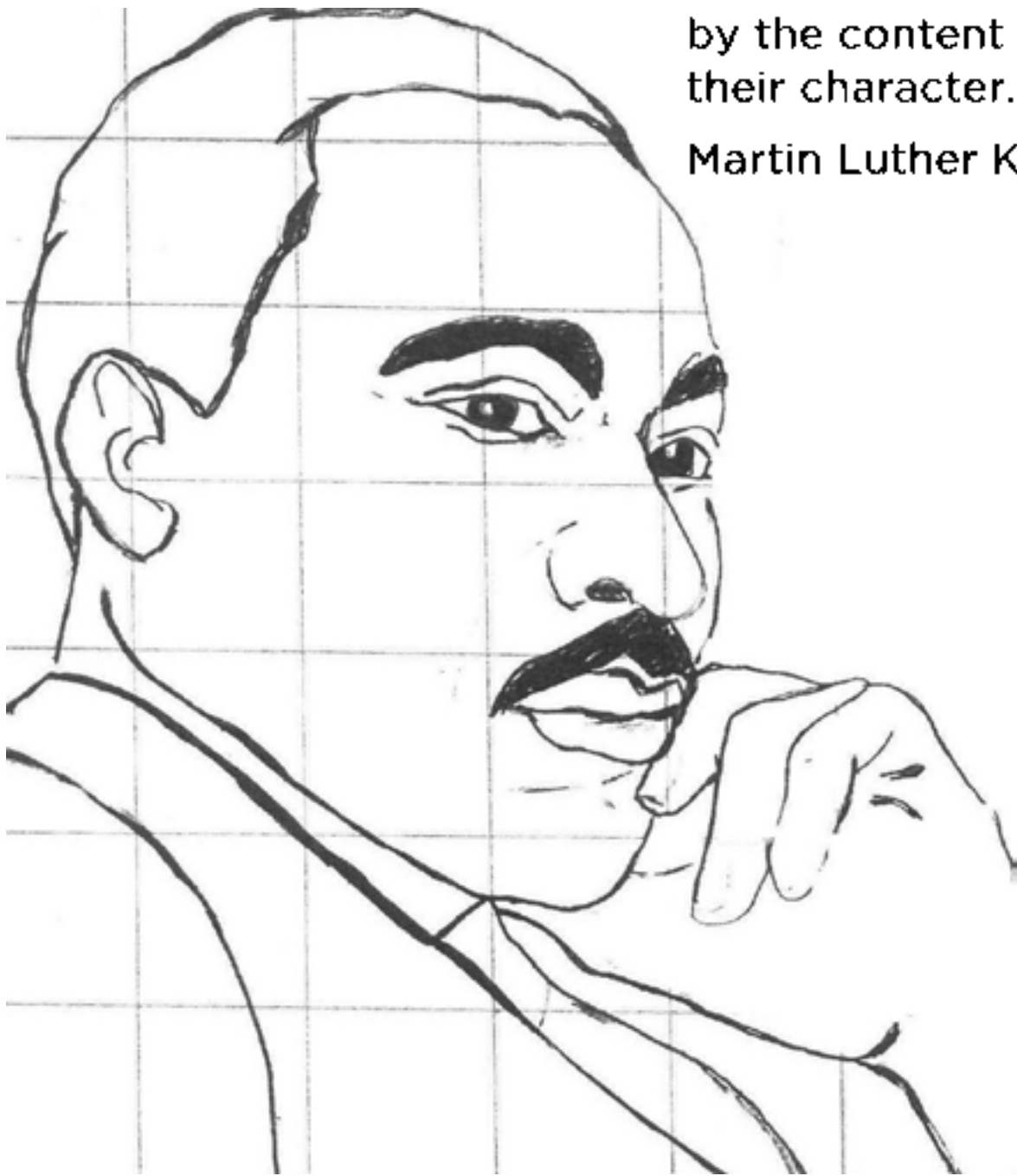
Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) was born and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, attending segregated public schools. After college, seminary and graduate schools, he became the pastor of a Montgomery, Alabama Baptist Church.

Dr. King believed in the power of non-violent protest to achieve equality and racial justice. In 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, the NAACP, (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), asked Dr. King to speak at the first nonviolent demonstration for civil rights in the country, the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He emerged as an inspiring civil rights leader, speaking across the country and supporting protest and actions against racial injustice.

In 1963, Dr. King directed the peaceful March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs where he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech to 250,000 people. After the march, King and other civil rights leaders met with President Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson to discuss the need for civil rights legislation, which resulted in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. King remarked “as television beamed the image of this extraordinary gathering across the border oceans, everyone who believed in man’s capacity to better himself had a moment of inspiration and confidence in the future of the human race.”

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



WoodmereArtMuseum
TELLING THE STORY OF PHILADELPHIA'S ART AND ARTISTS

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