

Chronology of Romare Bearden's life and art

- 1912 Born on September 2 in Charlotte, NC in the home of his grandparents
- 1925 Began spending summers with his maternal grandmother, Miss Carrie in Pittsburgh, PA
- 1925 Meets Eugene Bailey, a crippled, homeless boy who would become a life long source of inspiration for Bearden. Eugene introduced Bearden to art and gave him his earliest drawing lessons.
- 1929 Graduated from Peabody High School in Pittsburgh
- 1935 Graduated from New York University with a degree in mathematics
- 1936 Joined the "306" Group of artists who met in studio lofts at 306 W. 141st Street.
- 1936 Studied at the Art students League in NY with German artist, George Grosz
- 193?-1966 Social worker with New York City Department of Social Services
- 1942-1945 Served in the United States Army with the 372nd Infantry Division
- 1945 First solo exhibition, "**Passion of Christ**" series in New York at Samuel M. Kootz Gallery in Harlem
- 1950 Went to Paris to study philosophy at the Sorbonne on the G.I. bill, but also had opportunities to meet a variety of writers and artists including the sculptor Constantin Brancusi and cubist painter, Georges Braque
- 1954 Married Nanette Rohan who was from St. Martin in the West Indies
- 1963 March on Washington, benchmark event in the Civil Rights Movement
- 1963 Bearden formed, with several other African American artists from New York, "Spiral." The group sought to express through their art social responsibility and support of the civil rights movement. Attempted to use collage as a medium for expression of the group's ideals.
- 1964 Began using collage in his art as a way to express the subtleties and complexities of black American life.
Appointed first art director Harlem Cultural Council, which helped to found The Studio Museum of Harlem, Cinque Gallery and the Academy of Black Arts and Letters
- 1966 "**Projections,**" Bearden's first one-man museum exhibition of his monochromatic photomontages and photostats organized by the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The show's success allowed him to quit his job as a New York social worker and make art full-time.

- 1967-68 Created "**Memories of Mecklenburg County**" series of large innovative works reaffirming his southern heritage
- 1970 Helped to found Academy of Black Arts and Letters
- 1971 Major solo exhibition, "**Romare Bearden: The Prevalence of Ritual,**" Museum of Modern Art in New York
- 1972 Elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters (some references say 1966)
- 1974 Solo exhibition, "**Romare Bearden: Of the Blues,**" at Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc.
- 1977 Created the "**Odysseus Collages**", images that were based on Homeric texts, which utilized flat shapes and a simplification of color. The collages were shown in an exhibition at the Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc., in New York from April 27 through May 28.
- 1980 Ten -year retrospective of his art held at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC
- 1987 Received President's National Medal of the Arts award
- 1988 Dies on March 12 after a long illness