

## Earl B. Lewis: *Imagine*

The Links, Inc. 47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Black History Month Art Exhibition

Earl Bradley Lewis, interpreter and visionary, uses his preferred medium of watercolor to evoke emotion in his works through his use of subject matter and the use of light and shadow, creating scenes charged with feeling and nostalgia. Lewis began as a fine artist, and has remained one throughout his varied artistic career. He is best known best for his work as an illustrator, with more than seventy children's books to his name. These critically-acclaimed works have won prestigious awards such as the Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King Award. Although he has received multiple honors, Lewis believes what matters most is creating something magical and beautiful that can transport young readers to another place or time.



*Everlasting Embrace – On Mama's Back*, Watercolor

Earl Bradley Lewis was born in northeastern Philadelphia in 1956. He was inspired to become an artist at an early age by his uncle, a former professor at Temple University, who recognized his talent and introduced him to the Temple University School of Art League. It was there that he discovered his preference for working in watercolors. In 1975, Lewis was accepted to the Tyler School of Art at Temple where he majored in graphic design, illustration and art education. Upon graduation, Lewis began teaching in the public school system and working as a freelance graphic designer and painter. Soon after, he began to exhibit his work at the prestigious Richard Rosenfeld Gallery in Philadelphia, where his work can be seen to this day.

Lewis remained a teacher and freelance artist until 1992, at which point he was approached about illustrating a children's book entitled *Fire on the Mountain*. After that endeavor, he focused on his own artwork, evolving into the renowned illustrator he is today. Delineating his bodies of work with different signatures, he works under "Earl Lewis" as a fine artist and "E.B. Lewis" as an illustrator.

The compelling nature of Lewis' work stems from his creative process. Believing the best way to illustrate a book is by transporting the reader to another world, he visits a location where the story could

take place and experiences it with all of his senses, using live models in realistic settings for his initial sketches. Lewis captures their emotions and adds a spark which is uniquely his own, creating art work that is both awe-inspiring and aesthetically pleasing. His illustrations are accurate to life in proportion and expression; and his fine art is striking, as people, buildings, and landscapes are all vividly captured through his paintbrush and paper.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

E.B. Lewis is best known for his illustrations. These typically portray children, particularly African-American children, learning about life, love, and finding hope in any situation. The sun-dappled smiling faces of children surrounded by brilliantly colored and detailed backgrounds show anything from flowers to farm landscapes, and make one feel as if entering a world where life can be hard but nonetheless happy and optimistic.



*Ring Around the Rosie*, Acrylic, Watercolor on Paper



*Jamelle*, Acrylic Paint, Gold Leaf on Lottery Ticket

## LOTTO ICONS

The small works in his *Lotto Icons* series combine Lewis' passion for the plight of children with his skills as a fine artist. After observing underprivileged families purchasing lottery tickets rather than food, he began using scratch-off lottery tickets as his canvas. Lewis depicts the faces of children staring out from beneath a veneer of gold leaf which is carefully scratched away to reveal individual faces. As a statement about children in our society, Lewis expresses what is truly valuable in life. The message is that children, not monetary gain, are what will bring a bright and hopeful future.

E.B. Lewis resides in Folsom, New Jersey and is a professor of illustration at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a member of The Society of Illustrators in New York. His work is represented by galleries throughout the U.S. and is in numerous private collections. Lewis continues to paint and illustrate children's books while travelling the world, giving talks to children and adults about his life and career as an illustrator.

## Book Signing with E.B. Lewis

**March 13, 2016: 2:00 - 4:00pm**

Artist and children's book illustrator E.B. Lewis will be at The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University for a reception and book signing. He will be giving out 100 free autographed copies (while supplies last) of his books to any child with a certificate. To receive a certificate, children 12 and under must visit the E.B. Lewis exhibition in the Noyes Gallery inside the Arts Garage between 2/3/16 and 3/13/16 accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Toni Fultz Fauntleroy at: [tfaunt@aol.com](mailto:tfaunt@aol.com)