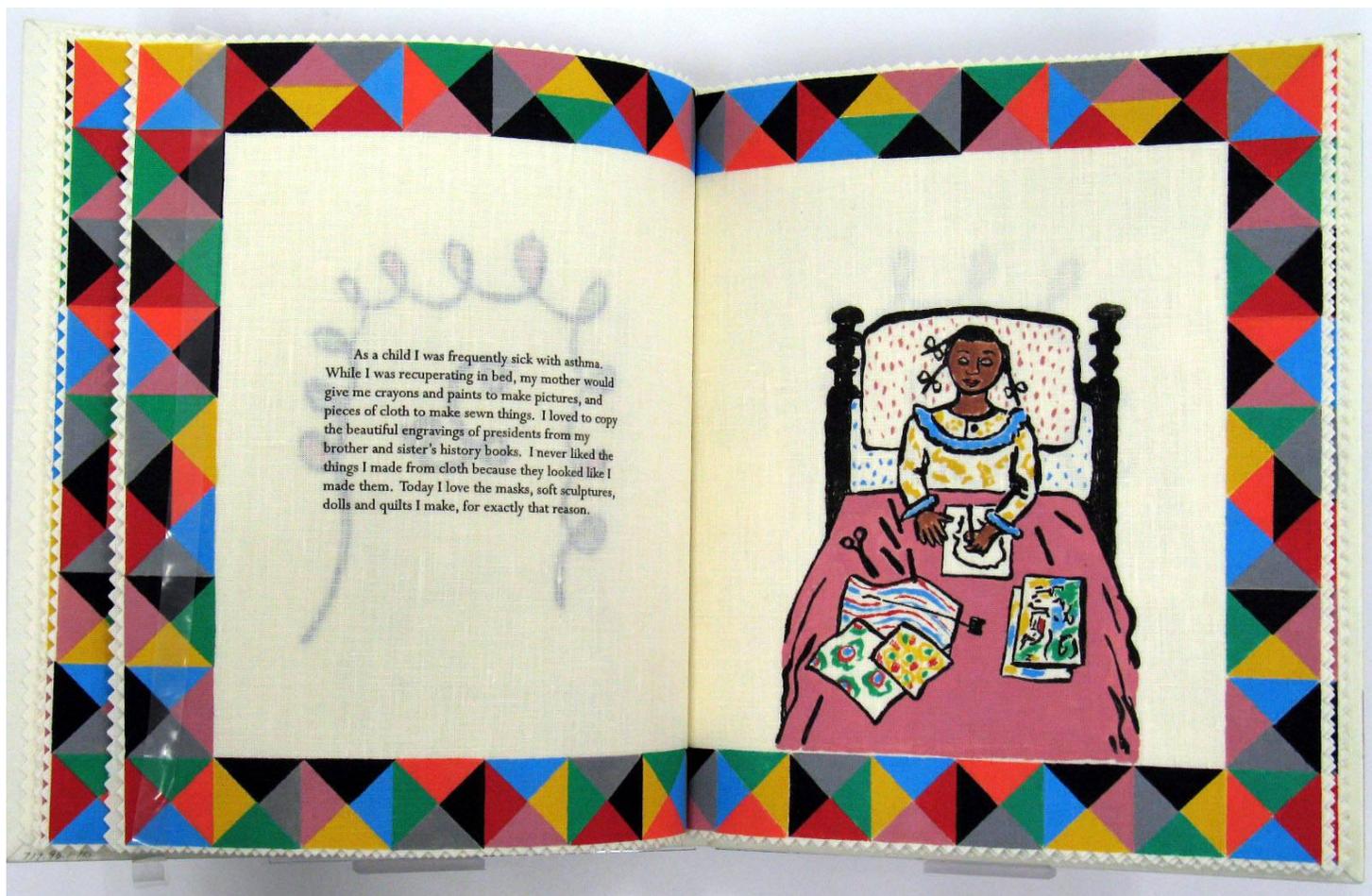
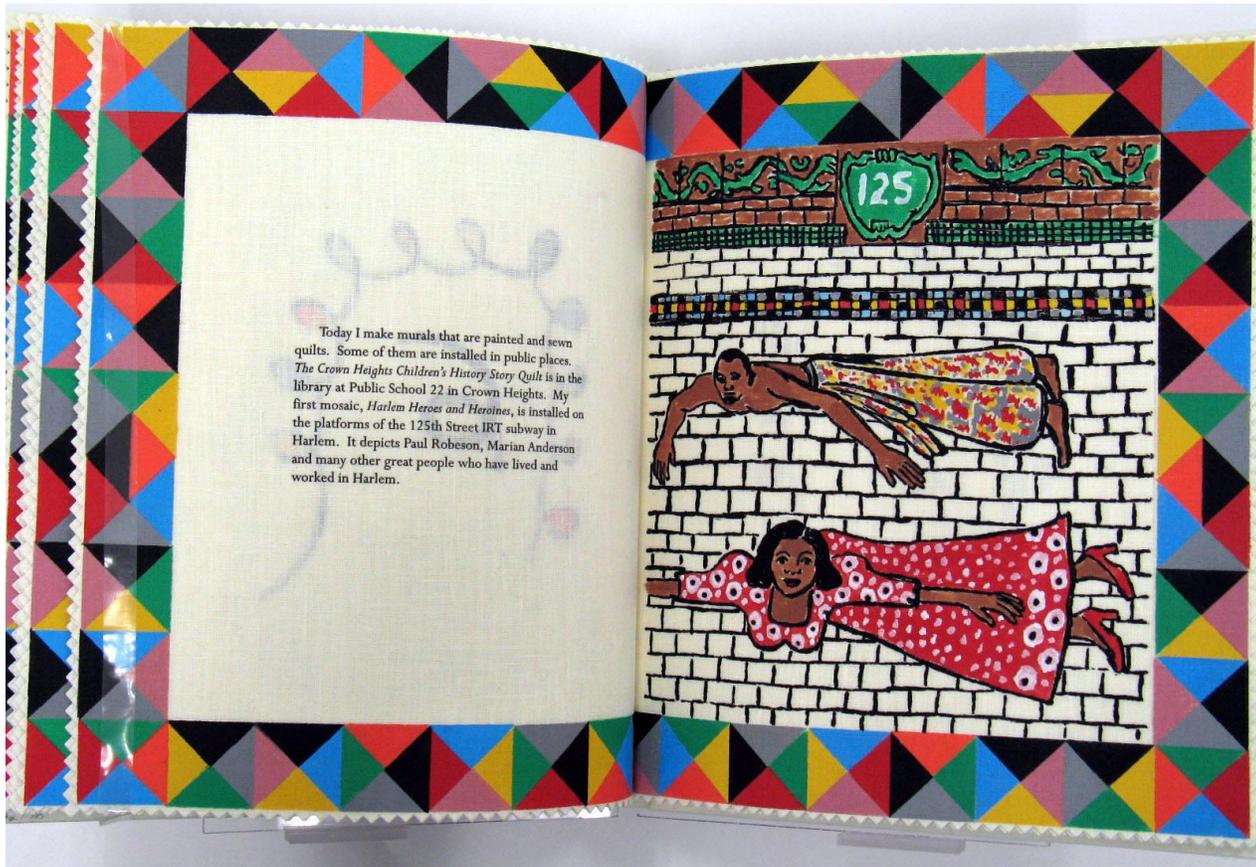


Mondays with MoMA





Today I make murals that are painted and sewn quilts. Some of them are installed in public places. *The Crown Heights Children's History Story Quilt* is in the library at Public School 22 in Crown Heights. My first mosaic, *Harlem Heroes and Heroines*, is installed on the platforms of the 125th Street IRT subway in Harlem. It depicts Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson and many other great people who have lived and worked in Harlem.

Plate (folio 16) from *Seven Passages to a Flight*



My husband Birdie and I now live just over the George Washington Bridge in Englewood, New Jersey. Like Cassie and Be Be of *Tar Beach*, we flew over the bridge.

Plate (folio 20) from *Seven Passages to a Flight*

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What is happening in these pictures?
2. These are scenes from the artist's life - what can you learn about the artist from the images and text?
3. What other details do you notice?

Step 2 Learn more

These are three scenes from Faith Ringgold's *Seven Passages to a Flight*, a book of nine etchings, paired with text, that depict the story of Faith Ringgold's life, career and family, as well as Black history. Inside the book, she depicts key moments in her life, with fantastical elements such as people flying, a common theme in Ringgold's work. The scenes included in this lesson represent:

- Ringgold as a child drawing and painting on pieces of fabric while recuperating from illness
- A mural of prominent Harlem figures, Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson, which she made for New York City's 125th Street subway station.
- Ringgold and her husband against the background of the Washington Bridge and their home in New Jersey.

Ringgold often incorporated quilting into her work, a skill she learned from the women in her family. The colorful triangles that make up the border are inspired by quilts as well as Central African motifs. Other museum collections have editions of these etchings in a [quilt format](#).

Step 3 Illustrate key events from your life

Materials: several sheets of paper, pencils, colored pencils or markers, (*optional*) staples or thread

1. Choose 3-4 important events in your life
2. Illustrate these life events, adding imaginary elements if you like.
3. Think of decorative elements, such as borders, that you might want to add to unify all your drawings.
4. Write a couple of sentences about each image that explain why this life event was important to you.
5. (*Optional*) Bind the pages of your story together in a book, by stapling or punching holes and sewing together with thread. Or you can arrange the images into a quilt format.

Step 4 Share!

Share your illustrated autobiography with a friend, classmate, or family member. Or, you can email photos to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org

Teaching Tip: Learn more about this work from the San Diego Museum of Art: youtu.be/t4_eIY1KNHk



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Image: Faith Ringgold. *Seven Passages to a Flight*. 1995. Illustrated book with nine etchings with hand additions and pochoir on linen, including cover. Brighton Press, San Diego. The Ralph E. Shikes Fund. © 2021 Faith Ringgold / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York