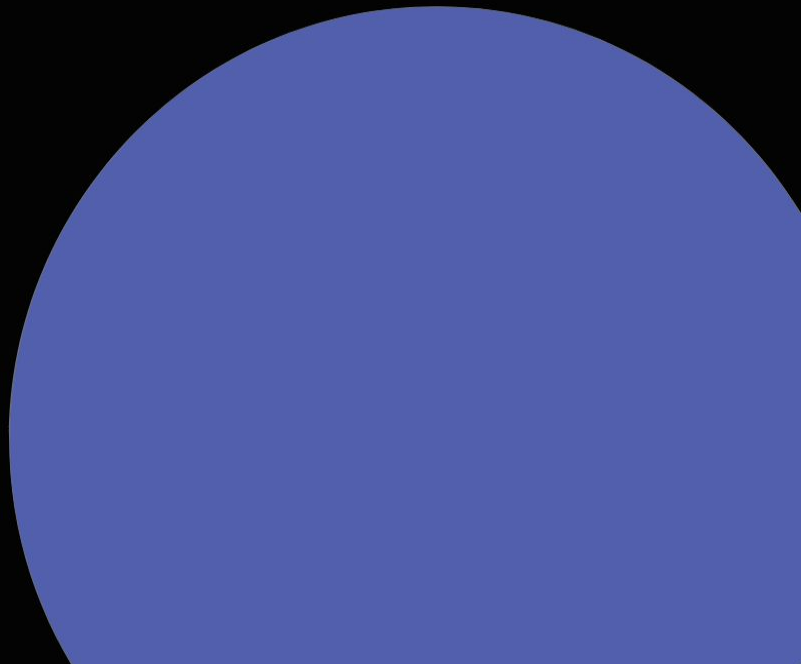


Background

Harlem Renaissance

Low wages, lawfully accepted segregation, lack of available schooling, devastating floods, and blatant racism drove Black people to flee the southern states up to the north in America. Many from the Caribbean Islands followed, seeking social and economic prosperity that was promised by the industrial cities in the north unable to find workers due to the ban on travel to the states from Europe. The movement was dubbed the Great Negro Migration and later rebranded the Great Migration, beginning during the First World War, surging during 1910-1916 persisting through to the 1940s.



Aaron Douglas

Harlem Renaissance

Aaron Douglas, born in 1899, was referred to as “the father of Black American art” was an African American artist born in Kansas who was a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance. Douglas came to fame during the New Negro Movement in the 1920s with his works of art and for his time working as a professor at historically black universities in the 1930s and 1940s.

Ever since Aaron Douglas came to Harlem in 1925, his paintings and graphic art were very successful and won him many awards that rose him to fame. His works focused primarily on his interest in modernism, African Art, Art Deco, and elements of Egyptian wall paintings. However, he is known best for creating powerful images of African American life and struggles through his works.



Jacob Lawrence

Harlem Renaissance

Jacob Lawrence's art fixated on the theme of the human struggle (Much like blues).

Lawrence's parents arrived up north as a result of the Negro Migration, after the birth of their three children, his parents separated. Lawrence, his sister, and brother were raised by his mother. Lawrence was making art during the period of the Great Depression when the numbers for homelessness and poverty skyrocketed. Despite the Depression, the Renaissance persevered.

Lawrence studied at Charles Alston's studio beginning work professionally in the 1930s. His work is frequently referred to as a social realist. However, his work is highly expressionist.

Similar to many of his predecessors, and artists of his own time Lawrence was also interested in African art and Africanism. A theme shared with the musicians of the Harlem Renaissance.

His social realism focused on the working class, civil rights, spirituality and leisure time.

Lawrence's works display visual representations rhythms, breaks and modulations of jazz music.



Augusta Savage

Harlem Renaissance

Augusta Savage, born in 1892, was known best for being a talented sculptor during the Harlem Renaissance. When she was younger, she began using natural clay found in her area of Florida, where she grew up, to create art. She was a talented sculptor even as a child and was known for sculpting animals and other small figures when she was younger.

In the 1920s, Augusta moved to NYC to study at Cooper Union and finished college early and chose to make a name for herself as a portrait sculptor. Her works included famous historical African American figures like W.E.B. Du Bois and Marcus Garvey. Augusta would later get opportunities to study abroad in Paris where she exhibited her works of art that won her many awards like the Julius Rosenwald fellowship in 1929. Perhaps most notably, she helped found the Harlem Artists' Guild and assisted many African American artists during her time by lobbying for the Works Projects Administration (WPA) to help other young artists find work during this tough economical time in

