Black is Beautiful

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Try this short quiz to explore artworks by visionary Black artists who captured the beauty and strength of Black people using various mediums like photography, printmaking, and painting.
IN THE 1970S, IT WAS COMMON TO FIND IMAGES OF BLACK PEOPLE IN

A  Magazines

B  On TV

C  None of the Above
Answer: C
(None of the Above)

Noticing the lack of images of Black people in the media, the photographer Kwame Brathwaite partnered with fashion designers and artists to create beautiful images of Black people and make popular the slogan “Black is Beautiful.”

PHOTOGRAPHER GORDON PARKS THOUGHT OF HIS CAMERA AS A

A  Toy
B  Weapon
C  Friend
Answer: B (Weapon)

Gordon Parks said, “I chose my camera as my weapon against all the things I dislike about America—poverty, racism, discrimination.”


Gordon Parks, *Doll Test, Harlem, New York*, 1947 (printed 2020), gelatin silver print, Gift of Funds from Mary and Bob Mersky  2020.55.4

THESE TWO ARTWORKS WERE MADE BY THE SAME ARTIST.

A  True

B  False
Elizabeth Catlett's art highlighted the struggle, resilience, and beauty of Black people. Sharecropper (top) is one of her most famous artworks. All the People (bottom) was created 40 years later in 1992.

Elizabeth Catlett, *Sharecropper*, 1952 (printed c. 1952-57), color linocut on cream paper, The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund  P.97.1

Elizabeth Catlett, *All the People*, 1992, color lithograph, The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund  P.98.1.2.4
THIS PORTRAIT OF ANGELA DAVIS IS MADE UP OF LETTERS.

A True

B False
Expertly crafted by artist Wadsworth Jarrell, look closely to find words like “Revolution,” “Black,” and “Beautiful.” They represent ideas of Angela Davis, who continues her activism today.

Wadsworth Jarrell, *Revolutionary (Angela Davis)* (detail), 1972, color screenprint, Gift of Funds from Mary and Bob Mersky 2018.41
Tune into Virtual Family Day today to try art activities inspired by some of the artists featured in this quiz!