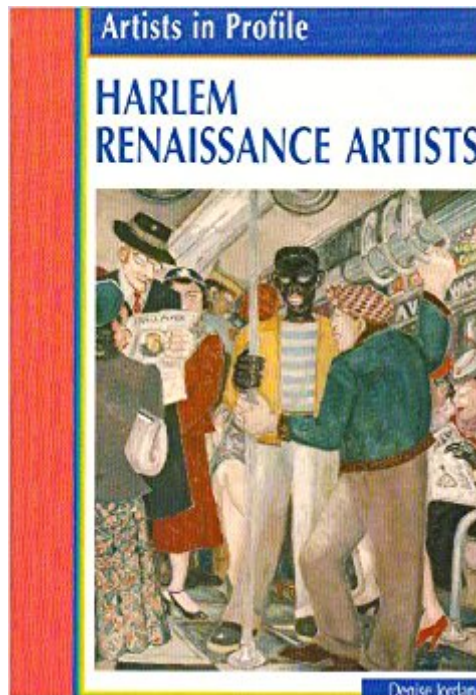




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# Harlem Renaissance Artists (Artists In Profile)



## Synopsis

What is the Harlem Renaissance? Who were the Harlem Renaissance artists? What was the Federal Art Project? Do you know when the Harlem Renaissance artists lived? Which artists were active in the Harlem Renaissance movement? How did their artistic style change the way people thought about art? Artists in Profile: Harlem Renaissance Artists will answer your questions about this artistic revolution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Denise M. Jordan is a Heinemann-Raintree author.

This book will help young readers to learn briefly about the Harlem Renaissance and get snapshots of its material artists. This book helps to inform the public that the Harlem Renaissance was not solely about authors. This book neither forgets racism, nor obsesses with it. An art teacher once accused me of racism when I criticized his assignment for only focusing on white, male artists. Can you imagine that challenging Eurocentricity or androcentricity could mean one is racist?! Many people, across the political spectrum, want to close their eyes and act like the art world does not have the prejudices of the larger society. This book mentions how many of these artists were denied jobs and art entry due to their race. Some artists' work was either destroyed or not kept in good condition because it was assumed that Black art had no value for posterity. Still there's talk of how poverty and prima donna attitudes hurt some of these artists. In the same way that many Black

authors later wanted to visit James Baldwin in France, this book says many Renaissance painters wanted to meet Henry O. Tanner there. Many of these artists had parents who died young or dealt with family members that suffered from mental illnesses. Nevertheless, please throw away the idea of the artist dying before his time. This book clearly shows how most of these artists lived into their 70s or beyond. Though the Renaissance movement may have ended, the painters and sculptors in the movement did not die soon thereafter. The book works hard to be diverse. It includes painters, sculptors, and at least one photographer. It includes New York natives, denizens, and those who might have never visited the City at all. The book only has two chapters on female artists, but this may reflect the gender-imbalanced nature of the profession. It is not an act of sexism. It includes a biracial artist and one involved in an interracial marriage. Still, many Harlem Renaissance works don't want to address sexual orientation matters, and unfortunately, this is one of those non-courageous books. It is mentioned when these artists marry people of the opposite sex. However, it mentions Richmond Barthe, Langston Hughes, and Alain Locke but never once states that they were Rainbow Flag men. This book is one installment of a series called Artists in Profile. Other installments include Pop Artists and Surrealists. Thus, this book is not one in a series with Black Poets, Black Playwrights, etc. One could ask how the project would have been different if such a series produced it. Each chapter on an artist is incredibly short. Most elementary school reports require the students to focus on one famous person, not a group of them. Thus, I do wonder if this book would face difficulties that a book focused solely on one Renaissance artist would not.

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