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"My process is designed to give us 'colored folk' and women a taste of the American dream straight up. Since the facts don't do that too often, I decided to make it up. . . . That is the real power and joy of being an artist. We can make it come true. Or look true."

— FAITH RINGGOLD

FAITH RINGGOLD'S quilts are empowering. With painted images, handwritten texts, and quilting techniques, she stitches the classic art of storytelling together with ideas from modernist and postmodernist art, feminist theory, and African American history.

Designed to accompany a major traveling exhibition of Ringgold's work, *Dancing at the Louvre* offers a clear overview of her contribution to contemporary art and showcases in dazzling color, for the first time, all of the exquisite story quilts in her celebrated series *The French Collection*. It also features many earlier works, such as the highly popular *Tar Beach*, and selections from *The American Collection*, begun in 1996. Essays examine her stylistic development from the 1960s through the 1990s and explore the social and political aspects of her story quilts. Recollections by feminist writer Michele Wallace, the artist's daughter, and by art historian Moira Roth add autobiographical insights.

Faith Ringgold has a broad audience of admirers, from the art critics who have praised her gallery shows to the youngsters and parents who love her children's books. All will welcome *Dancing at the Louvre*. Finally there is a book that highlights Ringgold's artistic achievements and provides a full discussion of her importance within art history.

"This multivocal medley of texts provides a long overdue discussion in depth of Faith Ringgold's work. Even scholarly seriousness can't dampen the vitality of her story quilts. In fact, it's catching."

— Lucy Lippard

author of *Mixed Blessings: New Art in a Multicultural America*

"Faith Ringgold is an artist of enormous energy, vision, and artistry. She is one of the foremost pioneers to break the traditional canons regarding the assumptions of modern painting while simultaneously elevating and articulating a new dimension of a truly womanist and American aesthetic for the twenty-first century."

— Leslie King-Hammond

Dean of Graduate Studies,
Maryland Institute,
College of Art

"Faith Ringgold's work challenges hierarchy. Her stunning paintings, quilts, and objects interweave politics with aesthetics, at times centering on the personal and everyday and at other times shining floodlights on great figures in American history and culture, from Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass to Martin Luther King and Bessie Smith. This is a joyful, triumphant book, an elegant tribute to a great American artist."

— Elaine Kim

Professor of Asian American and
Comparative Ethnic Studies,
University of California, Berkeley

Cover art: Faith Ringgold's *Dancing at the Louvre* (*The French Collection*, Part I: #1), 1991, collection of Ms. Francie Bishop Good and Mr. David Horvitz, photo by Gamma One. Cover design by Seventeenth Street Studios. Printed in Canada