

## **FAITH RINGGOLD ASSIGNMENT**

NOTE: THIS EXERCISE WILL NEED TO BE MODIFIED – PART OF IT DEPENDS UPON VIEWING RINGGOLD’S WORK IN PERSON. HOWEVER, IT COULD EASILY BE MODIFIED SIMPLY BY HAVING STUDENTS CHOOSE IMAGES FROM HER WEBSITE TO COMPLETE QUESTIONS 3 – 7 AND/OR ASKING STUDENTS TO RESPOND TO MORE THAN ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TAR BEACH 2 EXERCISE.

FAITH RINGGOLD: <http://www.faihringgold.com/>

### **Please read and follow instructions carefully to respond completely in 6 paragraphs:**

This assignment will deepen your understanding of the visual elements used by artists. The elements you will be analyzing in Faith Ringgold’s work are elements of **form** (color, line, shape, texture etc.), **content** (the symbolic elements that construct meaning) and **context** (those elements that are related to the production of the image – the artist’s own experience, geographic and social location, training, etc.).

- 1) Plan at least 20 minutes to view *Exploring Form, Content and Context in Faith Ringgold’s Tar Beach 2*:  
<http://www.arhu.umd.edu/technology/visuallit/rollover/tarbeach2/>.  
(This is a password protected site – the password and the login are both “explore”.) Remember that you must view this exercise in a browser OTHER than Internet Explorer in order to view it properly. Be sure to visit all the pages in this exercise, including the intro and the resources page on the site. As part of your exploration, use your cursor, roll over the image on the page titled *explore the image*:  
<http://www.arhu.umd.edu/technology/visuallit/rollover/tarbeach2/tarbeach2.html>.  
**Choose ONE of the CONTENT questions (numbers 9-13) to answer.** You can view (and print) an entire list of the questions in order to decide which one you want by choosing the PDF format on the resources page.
- 2) Answer the question you choose in one paragraph of at least 5-6 sentences; save this answer in a word document, and then provide feedback about this exploration exercise on the *comments* page:  
<http://www.arhu.umd.edu/technology/visuallit/rollover/tarbeach2/comments.html>
- 3) **Select TWO questions relating to form and context (questions 1-8)** to answer in the Faith Ringgold exhibit [*Jazz Stories: Mama Can Sing: Papa Can Blow*] now showing at the Art Gallery in the Art/Soc’y Building (ASY). Take the questions with you when you visit the exhibit. While you are at the exhibit, choose two different objects from the exhibit and answer one of your selected questions for each object that you chose – you will need to modify the questions slightly to fit the objects you choose since *Tar Beach 2* is not on display.
- 4) In your answers **BE SURE TO IDENTITY** which objects you are writing about (title of image). Write a paragraph of at least 5-6 sentences in response to each of your selected questions and add them to your previous paragraph.

- 5) **Add one paragraph that summarizes your overall impression of the exhibition.** It should also be at least 5-6 sentences and it should address (a) what you responded to most strongly in the exhibition and (b) what connections you made between Ringgold's work and any previous readings, videos, or other work in our class as well as any previous knowledge you brought with you to the class. Some additional questions that may help you to summarize your impressions are: What objects did you respond to most positively and why? What was the most powerful aspect of the exhibition for you?
- 6) **Add one paragraph** (at least 5-6 sentences) that discusses how the art on exhibit and the video that you viewed about Faith Ringgold reinforce one another in creating a deeper understanding of Ringgold's work. What is one thing which you've come to understand better about the relationship between an artist's biography (their lived experience) and their work? Think, for example, how information you learned about Ringgold in the video enhanced your understanding of the meanings contained in the work on view at The Art Gallery.
- 7) **Your final paragraph** (you will have six (6) paragraphs in total) should discuss the use of quilts as 'art' in Amaki's work and in Ringgold's work. How do you respond to the use of quilts in the work of both of these artists? What differences and similarities do you find between the two artists in how they use this medium and in the meanings the quilts carry for you as a viewer? To what do you attribute the differences or similarities you note – form, content, context or all three? Explain your response.