



# EVERYDAY HEROES

EDUCATION RESOURCE





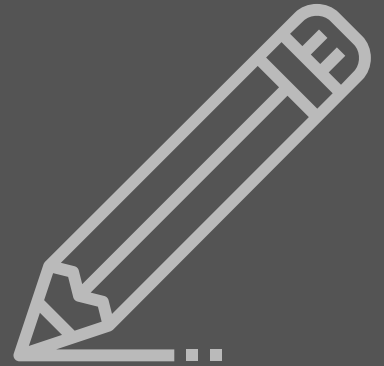
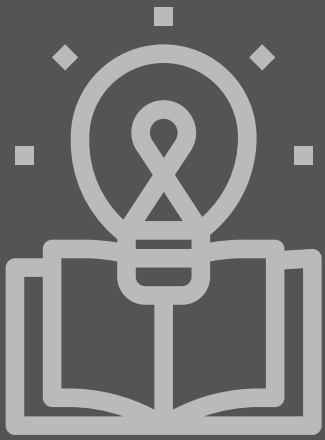
# ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

*Uncommon Threads: The Works of Ruth E. Carter* is a solo exhibition celebrating Massachusetts-born Ruth E. Carter's 30-year career as an Academy Award-winning costume designer.

This retrospective on view at NBAM from May 1 - November 14, 2021; features costumes from *Dolemite Is My Name* (2019), *Roots* (2016 reboot), *Selma* (2014), *Do The Right Thing* (1989), and *Malcolm X* (1992). The exhibit follows Carter's creative process and includes sketches, mood boards, iconic costumes, and other ephemera from her Los Angeles studio.



# ACTIVITY: ANALYZE ARTWORK



**Learn Think Create**



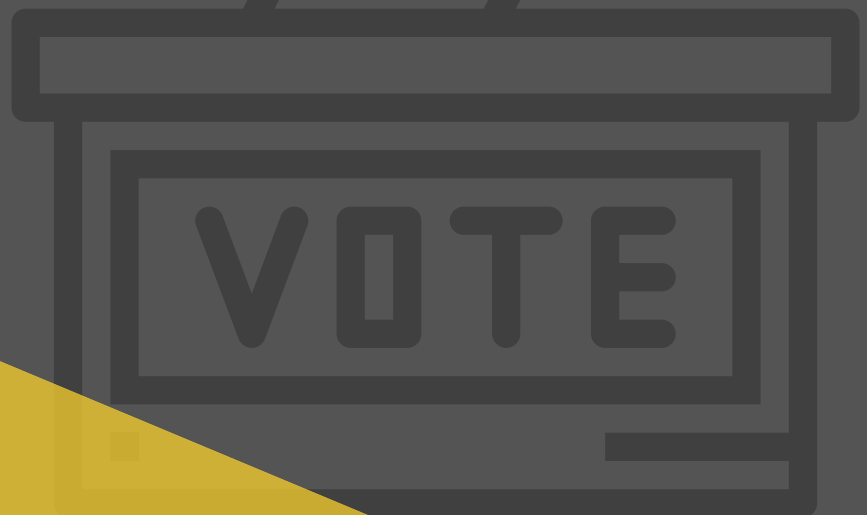
## OBJECTIVE

Ruth E. Carter was the costume designer for the film *Selma* (2014). We are going to learn about the history that inspired the film and speak with local artist Fitzcarmel M. LaMarre about his artwork in the Ruth E. Carter exhibit.



## SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbade discrimination in voting on the basis of race. However, black voters met with fierce resistance in southern states.

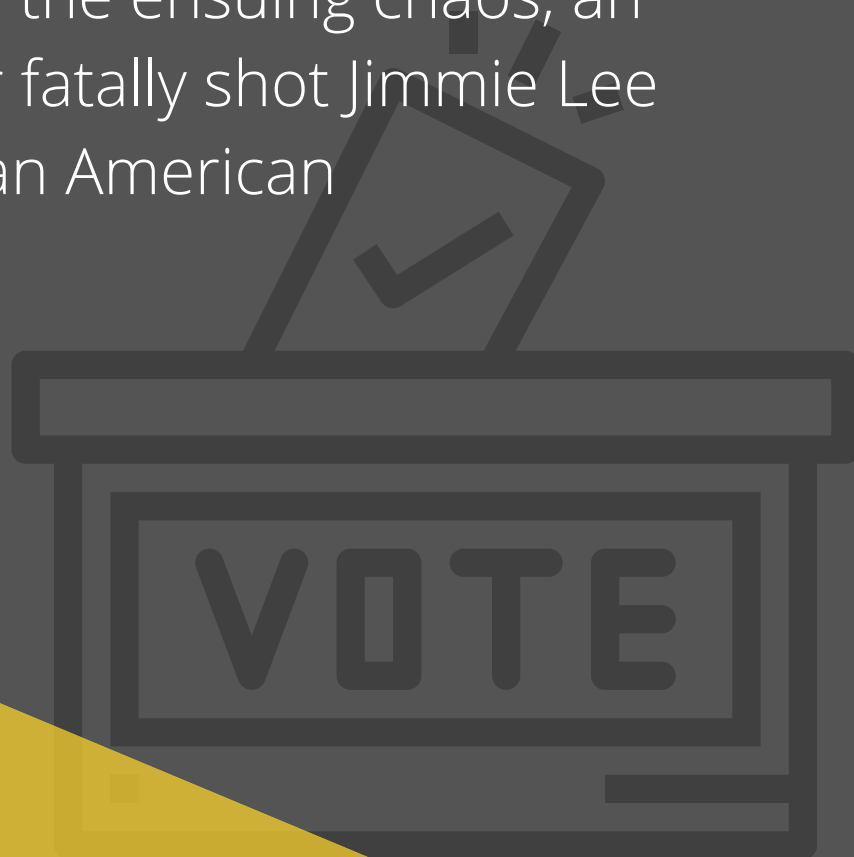


## SELMA TO MONTGOMERY (CONTINUED)



In early 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) decided to make Selma, Alabama, the focus of a Black voter registration campaign.

On February 18, white segregationists attacked a group of peaceful demonstrators in the town of Marion, Alabama. In the ensuing chaos, an Alabama state trooper fatally shot Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young African American demonstrator.



## SELMA TO MONTGOMERY (CONTINUED)



In response to Jackson's death, King and the SCLC planned a massive protest march from Selma to the state capitol of Montgomery, 54 miles away. A group of 600 people, including activists John Lewis and Hosea Williams, set out from Selma on Sunday, March 7, 1965 a day that would come to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

The marchers didn't get far before Alabama state troopers wielding whips, nightsticks and tear gas rushed the group at the Edmund Pettis Bridge and beat them back to Selma. The brutal scene was captured on television, enraging many Americans and drawing civil rights and religious leaders of all faiths to Selma in protest.



VOTE

# SELMA TO MONTGOMERY (CONTINUED)

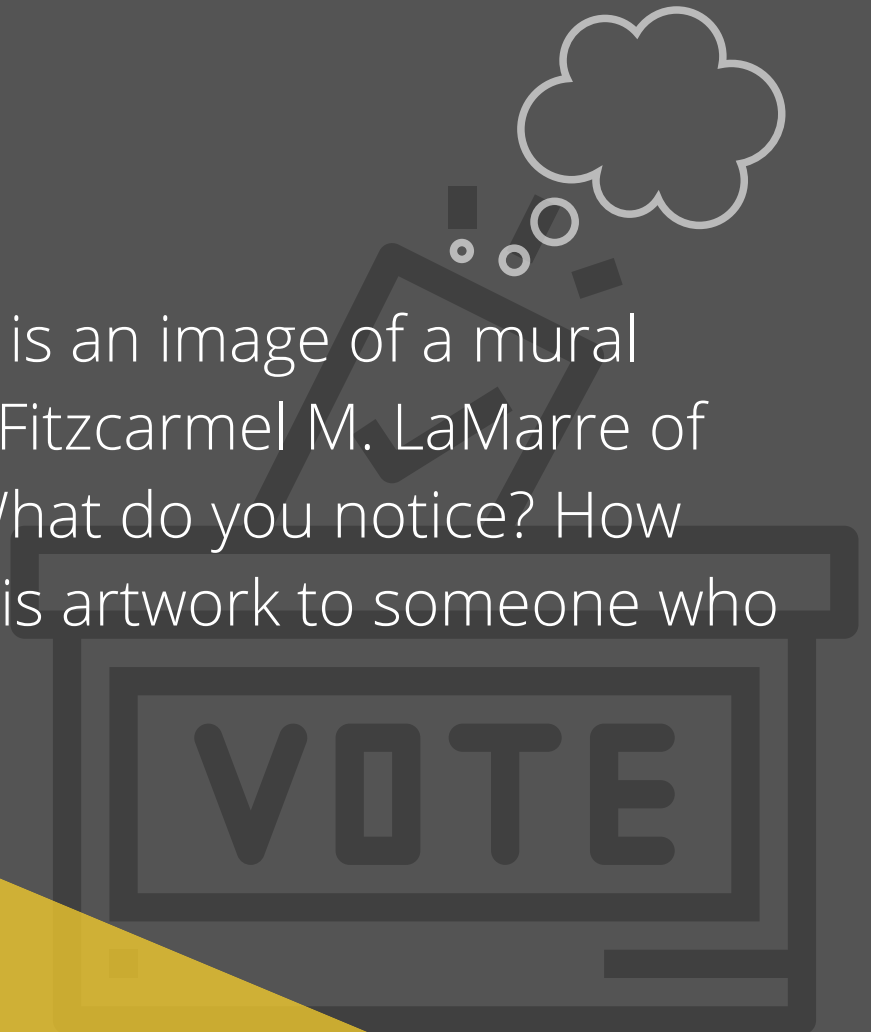


On March 9, King led more than 2,000 marchers, black and white, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge but found Highway 80 blocked again by state troopers. King paused the marchers and led them in prayer, whereupon the troopers stepped aside.

*Resource: history.com*

## ACTIVITY: ANALYZE ART

On the following page is an image of a mural painted by local artist Fitzcarmel M. LaMarre of this historical event. What do you notice? How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it?









# ANALYZE ARTWORK



1. Describe - What do you see? What is the center of interest?  
How does the artist draw your attention?

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2. Interpret - What is the main idea behind this artwork?  
Imagine yourself inside this artwork. What would  
you be feeling/thinking?

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3. Evaluate - What do you think about this artwork?

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*"Superheros are one thing, but everyday heroes  
are another. Incredible people make gigantic  
contributions to the culture, the paradigm. It's  
important that we recognize them as heroes."*

Ruth E. Carter

