

Bearden, Romare (1911-1988)
Charlotte, North Carolina

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Studied at New York University and graduated with a degree in science and education
- Studied at the Art Student's League 1936-7
- Strongly influenced by Mexican muralists, especially Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco
- 1956 studied with a Chinese calligrapher who introduced him to new ideas about space and composition

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Fairly abstract work in painting and collage, categorized as a Social Realist
- After 1960's worked primarily in collage and his work became more socially conscious due to the civil rights movement
- Imagery came from the daily rituals of African American life in the rural south and urban life in the north and was melded with themes of religion, myth, literature, music, and daily human experience
- Strong feeling for space, solid, and void
- Gives voice to those who cannot speak

KIA WORK-*The Lantern*, lithograph, 1979

- From a series of prints on Mecklenberg County, NC that he began after visiting his hometown
- Collage influence, but used prints in order to reach a larger audience

