

Tim Rollins + KOS (KIDS OF SURVIVAL)

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- New York-based collaborative creates works of art that combine literary texts, poems or musical compositions and painted images.

- Founded in 1982. Uses texts that the group studies as a basis for art. Actual pages from literary classics are laid on canvas to form a ground and then over painted with imagery that embodies motifs from the text.

- K.O.S. began when Rollins took a teaching job in the South Bronx to create a special course in art for students with educational and emotional disabilities.

- Rollins and his collaborators create remarkable works of artistic and social significance. Rollins has succeeded in changing young people's lives and the communities in which they live, through the power of intense dialogue with literary texts, in order to create enduring and meaningful works of art.

KIA WORK-*Invisible Man*, Acrylic, pencil, printed book pages on canvas, 2003

- Classic text from 1952, chronicles the travels of narrator, a young, nameless, black man, as he moves through levels of American intolerance and cultural blindness. "I am an invisible man," he says in his prologue. "When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves or figments of their imagination—indeed, everything and anything except me."

- Invisible Man* is a milestone in American literature, a book that has continued to engage readers since its publication. A first novel by an unknown writer, it remained on the bestseller list for 16 weeks, won the National Book Award for fiction and established Ralph Ellison as one of the key writers of the century.

