

# NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2022

## Kadir Nelson Exhibition Launches at Norman Rockwell Museum

***IN OUR LIFETIME: PAINTINGS FROM THE PANDEMIC BY KADIR NELSON***  
opens in tandem with ***Imprinted: Illustrating Race*** on June 11

STOCKBRIDGE, MA— Norman Rockwell Museum (NRM) is pleased to debut ***In Our Lifetime: Paintings from the Pandemic by Kadir Nelson*** featuring twelve recent paintings by the award-winning illustrator and author. Conceptualized and created during the COVID-19 pandemic, these works capture Nelson’s reflections on today’s national and world events. Additional paintings by the artist are included in the concurrent exhibition ***Imprinted: Illustrating Race***; both exhibitions will be on view June 11–October 31.

“This body of work, *In Our Lifetime*, serves as an artistic and historical document of the human drama we collectively lived through during the pandemic; and I’m very honored to share the walls of the Norman Rockwell Museum with one of my favorite artists and inspirations, Norman Rockwell,” Nelson said.

On view together for the first time, Kadir Nelson’s large-scale works depict such wide-ranging themes as childhood and the hope for a positive future, the need for interpersonal connectivity, the contributions of trailblazers, the importance of raising one’s voice, and the racial injustices that continue to plague society. Six commissioned illustrations for covers of *The New Yorker* will be on view, including the widely disseminated depiction of George Floyd, titled *Say Their Names*. An exhibition video featuring personal interviews with Kadir Nelson will be available in the galleries and online.

“Kadir Nelson is among today’s most important illustrators, capturing the current cultural moment in some of the most iconic images of our time. We have long desired to exhibit his work and are honored to be the first museum to present *In Our Lifetime*,” noted **Laurie Norton Moffatt**, NRM Director/CEO.

Two commemorative paintings will be on view – *Tulsa*, Nelson’s 100th Anniversary remembrance of the 1920 Tulsa Massacre in the historical Greenbelt “Black Wall Street” district in Oklahoma and *Centennial*, the 100th anniversary tribute to the founding of Negro League Baseball in America. “*In Our Lifetime: Paintings from the Pandemic by Kadir Nelson* is a powerful suite of unflinching paintings illustrating challenging realities and histories, as well as resilience through these last two years,” said Deputy Director/Chief Curator **Stephanie Haboush Plunkett**.

The exhibition was organized by **KADIR NELSON, INC | THE JKBN GROUP** and **Dr. Jungmiwha Bullock**, Social/Political Scientist and General Partner of THE JKBN GROUP. “Both illustrators [Rockwell and Nelson] capture the soul of our collective stories and the dignity of the subject matter, each in their distinctive and masterful ways, and despite how heavy the content may sometimes be,” expressed Dr. Bullock.

## **RELATED PROGRAMS**

**Saturday, July 23, 2022**

**11 a.m.** Visitors of all ages are invited to meet Kadir Nelson for a special book signing event and view the exhibition. Advance reservations required. Details at [NRM.org/events](https://nrm.org/events)

**4:30 p.m.** A Conversation with Kadir Nelson moderated by Dr. Jungmiwha Bullock. The artist discusses his work, process, and inspirations. Limited space available; advance reservations required at [NRM.org/events](https://nrm.org/events)

## **ABOUT KADIR NELSON**

Born in Washington, D.C., Kadir Nelson grew up in Atlantic City, New Jersey and San Diego, California, and began drawing at an early age. An apprentice to his uncle Michael Morris, an artist and teacher, when he was just eleven, Nelson went on to study art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

In addition to his cover illustrations for *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *National Geographic*, among others, Nelson has illustrated over thirty picture books, including *The Undeclared* written by Kwame Alexander, winner of the prestigious Caldecott Award, in 2020; *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, a *New York Times* Best-Seller; and *Henry's Freedom Box*, which received a Caldecott Honor Award. He worked as a concept artist for DreamWorks Pictures on Steven Spielberg's Oscar-nominated film, *Amistad*, and has designed album covers for Michael Jackson and Drake, as well as more than a dozen United States postage stamps honoring American legends Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Wilt Chamberlain, Marvin Gaye, and others.

Nelson's original paintings reside in the permanent collections of several notable institutions including the United States House of Representatives; Muskegon Museum of Art; The National Baseball Hall of Fame; The United States Postal Museum, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art; National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution; and the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland.

## **ABOUT NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM**

The Norman Rockwell Museum illuminates the power of American illustration art to reflect and shape society, and advances the enduring values of kindness, respect, and social equity portrayed by Norman Rockwell. The Museum holds the world's largest and most significant collection of art and archival materials relating to Rockwell's life and work, while also preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting a growing collection of art by other American illustrators throughout history. The Museum engages diverse audiences through onsite and traveling exhibitions, as well as publications, arts and humanities programs, including the Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies, and extensive online resources. Visit the Museum online at [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org). Museum hours are 10 am – 5 pm; *closed Wednesdays*. Advanced ticket purchase suggested; reserve on [NRM.org](http://NRM.org).

## **PRESS CONTACT**

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