

Message from the Museum

The mission of the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum is to share the legacy of President Kennedy, and that of his family as well as their deep connection to Cape Cod. Here we tell stories of how the Kennedys chose Cape Cod to spend important family time, and how they were restored by power of the sea, even while bearing the weight of national and world events. We share stories of President Kennedy's programs and policies and those of his family who were dedicated to public service their whole lives.

And we share stories of Cape Codders. Some stories are well known. Many more need to be told.

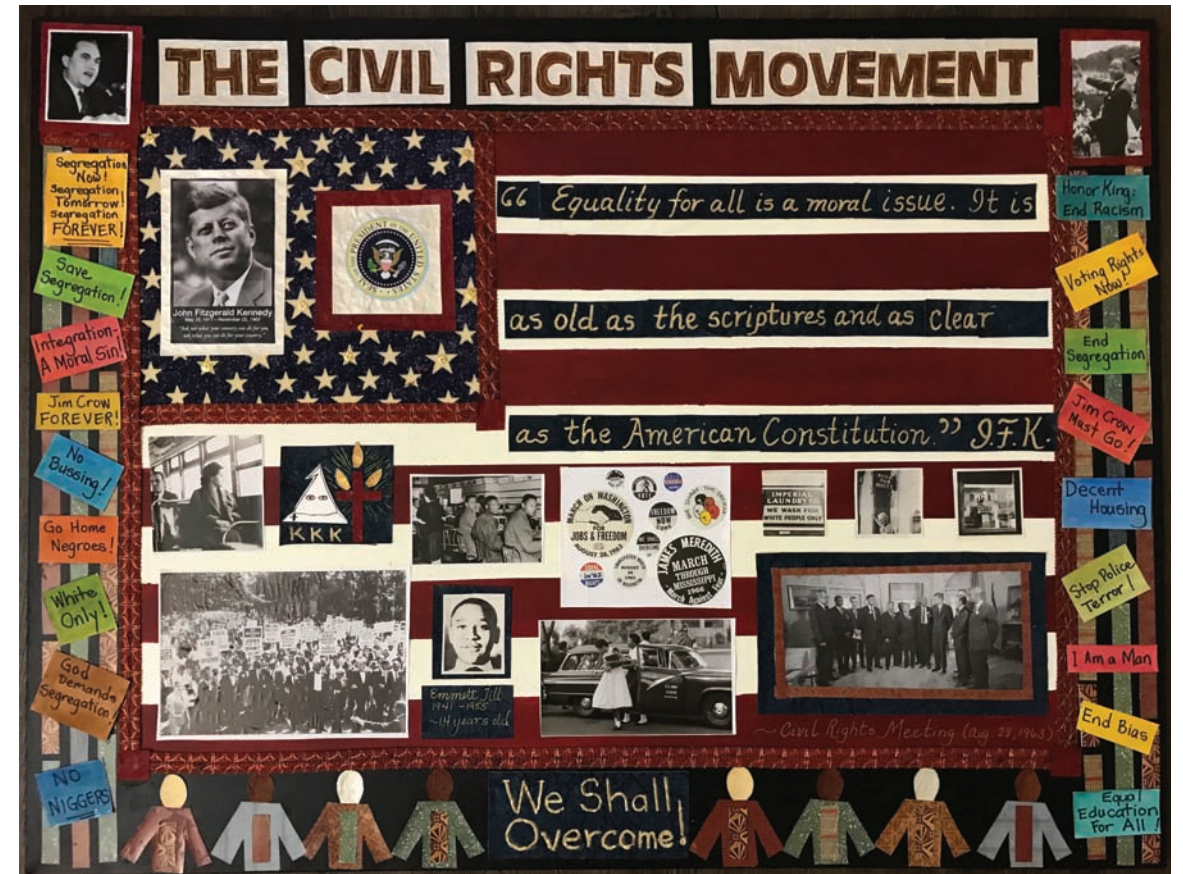
We are honored that Barnstable resident Robin Joyce Miller has created this special exhibit and series of talks for the JFK Hyannis Museum in 2025 to expand our cultural understanding of African American history. Robin's husband, James W. Miller, a poet, has added to this body of work. We are pleased that Robin has, also, paid tribute to the Civil Rights efforts of Kennedy during his presidency in her art and poetry. This exhibit, *A Sankofa Journey: The African in America*, will reveal historical information that people in the Cape Cod community may not know. It will certainly be an enlightening experience.

We urge you to also visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston to learn more about President Kennedy's role in the modern civil rights movement. Thank you for your curiosity about Cape Cod's stories of African American history.

Wendy K. Northcross
Co-Founder / Executive Director, John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum

A Sankofa Journey: The African in America

Robin Joyce Miller



John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum
February 5 – April 15, 2025



Blessed is the storyteller.

Celebrated artist and educator Robin Joyce Miller deftly illuminates stories of people and an America that must be told and retold. She creates an ongoing series of marvelous works through a combination of her powerful words and a diverse collection of art supplies. Each art piece and accompanying poem ignites emotion as it elevates those whose tale it tells.

Miller's artwork is resplendent with jeweled and earth tones, mixed with found and treasured objects, that draw the viewer into the story. She weaves prose, paint and paper to create divine rhythm. Each mixed-media piece is like a small quilt that serves as both protector and teller of the history it depicts. Her art and poetry lift each other further when seen and read or heard in proximity.

Blessed is the storyteller.

Blessed are we who enjoy her light and wisdom.

L. Michelle Law

Artist & Exhibitions Specialist at Cotuit Center for the Arts



Coming to America



Home of the Slave

Artist Statement

This collection of art and poetry revisits the tumultuous journey of the African in America while illuminating the rich contributions of the people who have worked to make this country a great nation. This Sankofa Journey begins with the European realization that Africa contains some of the world's greatest resources including its people. Then the narrative spans slavery and its aftermath, helping us understand the issues surrounding race that continue to affect African Americans today.

America doesn't feel like the United States these days. To many, it has become the Divided States of America. If America had come to terms with its duplicity of freedom for all, but not just for some, we wouldn't have so many George Floyd-type incidents. Unfortunately, America has decided to bury these truths and double down on its racist tendencies.

My wish is that we can meet at the table to find unity. This work has been a balm of healing for me. I hope it is revealing and healing to all who witness this collection.

Robin Joyce Miller

A Sankofa Journey: The African in America

A Sankofa Journey: The African in America . . . what does this title mean? Sankofa is an Adinkra word. There are many Adinkra symbols that speak the wisdom of the Akan tribe of West Africa. This symbol is often depicted as a bird holding the egg of the future in her beak as she turns back. Sankofa means go back and get it. Go back and get your history.

Go back to your origins.

Go back to your roots

Find your foundation.

