

# Thoughts and Resources

## from the Commission for Racial Understanding

### February 2020

#### Exhibit

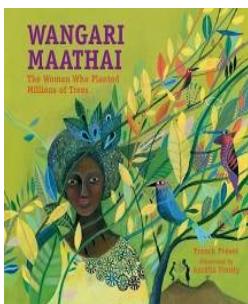
##### **Afterlives of the Black Atlantic** On display now through May 24, 2020 Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College



*Afterlives of the Black Atlantic* brings together works from the United States, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa that collectively explore the complexities of memory, identity, and belonging in the wake of the transatlantic slave trade. Drawn largely from the AMAM collection, with the addition of several loans and a site-specific commissioned work by José Rodriguez, *Afterlives* places contemporary artworks in dialogue with historical objects, contextualizing the concerns of artists investigating this history and its continued relevance. Calling attention to the impacts of human trafficking, cultural exchange, and trauma that still bind the territories on the Atlantic rim, this exhibition invites new and nuanced conversations about routes and mapping, consumption and trade, diaspora and dispersal, and identity and belonging.

#### Children's Resource

##### **Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees**



This simply told story begins with Green Belt Movement founder Wangari Maathai's childhood at the foot of Mount Kenya where, as the oldest child in her family, her responsibility was to stay home and help her mother. Wangari was determined to help her people and her country. She recognized that deforestation and urbanization was at the root of her country's troubles. Her courage and confidence carried her through adversity to found a movement for peace, reconciliation, and healing. Aurélia Fronty's beautiful illustrations show readers the color and diversity of Wangari's Africa.

#### Film

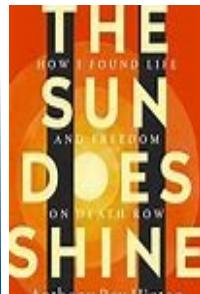
##### **Just Mercy**



This is a film directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, and starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan, Tim Blake Nelson, Rafe Spall, and Brie Larson. It tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Bryan Stevenson. The movie is currently airing at your local theater.

#### Adult Resources

##### **The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row**



Author Anthony Ray Hinton was convicted of two murders he hadn't committed. For the next three decades he was trapped in solitary confinement. Eventually his case was taken up by the award-winning lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, who managed to have him exonerated, though it took 15 years for this to happen. This New York Times best seller is a powerful and important memoir, showing a discouraging side of our legal system and an incredible testament of stamina and hope.

##### **Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves**



Remember that moment when you first encountered a character who seemed to be written just for you? That feeling of belonging remains with readers the rest of their lives—but not everyone regularly sees themselves in the pages of a book. In this timely anthology, Glory Edim brings together original essays by some of our best black women writers to shine a light on how important it is that we all—regardless of gender, race, religion, or ability—have the opportunity to find ourselves in literature.