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National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Literary Corner: Vernon February's Life and Works (side a)

Extracted on Jan-26-2022 12:13:35

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WEBVTT

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<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: of what I really had experienced in my homeland was authentic. And as I went on living in Ghana, I lived there for 6 years, 7 years. By the end of that time, I got a very strong desire to return back to the Caribbean and to really recognize for myself what Ghana had taught me that we really had. And those are the poems that really begin my major work Rights of Passage, published in 1967, Masks in 1968, and Islands.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Now, and they, they deal mainly with the theme of African culture.

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<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: Not only African culture, but really the business of what African culture did to me.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Yes

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<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: In recognizing my Caribbeanness.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: So you express you're, what you perceive through your writings.

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<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: Right. Right. Good.

00:05:17.000 --> 00:05:18.000

<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: You think most writers do that.

00:05:18.000 --> 00:05:35.000

<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: I think so. Um, we have said there are two main kinds of writers those who respond to external experience or social experience and those that respond to internal psychic or spiritual experiences. I, in general, tend to respond to the communal external ones, okay.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: What about one, this one point, we'll get to more later.

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<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: Right, okay.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: What are you going to read now?

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<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: I'm going to, I have in my hand here the book called The Arrivance, which is really umm those 3 books I mentioned, Rights of Passage, Masks, and Islands all brought into one. Because it really is a trilogy.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Yes

<i>Edward Brathwaite</i>: 3 poems in one. I really want to give you an idea, my sense of the connection between Africa and the new world, because I think that was one of our problems that we felt that Africa was very separate from the new world, and that we were not really part of the historical experience, okay. This is called The Jourmies and it's from Rights of Passage.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: mhm

00:06:23.000 --> 00:06:35.000

{music}

00:06:35.000 --> 00:06:35.708

<i>Vernon February</i>: Egypt and...



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