

INTERVIEW with Ishmael Reed and Kathryn Takara by Kim McMillon

Black Fire This Time

Thanks to Ishmael Reed, Margaret Troupe, Kim McMillon, Kofi Antwi, and
All others who worked, organized, contributed and helped
To make this significant and essential book a reality!

POEM by Kathryn Takara, PhD (draft)

This book is a tapestry
The golden thread that binds us
 Our voices,
 Our experiences
 Our truths
 Our views, our realities
It is elemental like fire
 It burns, destroys illusions
 It recreates possibilities
 Like the mythological Phoenix that rises from the ashes
Black is the color of oneness
 Is organic, is transmutation, is soul
 Is creative, is powerful, is survival
It is a book about consciousness and the Spirit
 Individual and collective
 It is a book of intersections and interconnectivity
It is inter and intra connected
 Generational and Diasporic observations and wisdom
 It represents cross cultural similarities and differences
 Economical, political, social values, human activities
 Visible and invisible forces and influences
 Spiritual and realistic, imaginative and social realism, and wisdom
It includes
 Community, consciousness and connectivity
 Belief systems and community institutions
 Tributes, our Being
It includes our issues of race, the necessities and obligations
 To share our struggles and growth
 The successes and failures of culture wars
 National and international
It includes issues of justice, equality and the lack thereof

Love and respect for each other, our history
Resistance and struggle
 Personal and collective
Tributes and wisdom.

It is gender specific and not, the focus is

 Beyond male only

 Beyond female only

It addresses self determination

 Its evolving meaning

 Resistance, insistence, the genius of Black folk

This Time is more inclusive

 It encourages voices of men AND women

 Intergenerational it is a mélange of young and old

 it is about ancestry, history, politics and culture

This Time

 We as a people are more educated and expressive

 Due to technology, in spite of a pandemic

 As artists and writers

 We are more connected

 Our experiences, our impressions, our thoughts

 Our understanding of imperialism, racism, colonialism

We as a people have grown and matured

We remember, imagine, struggle and evolve

We understand the significance of unity

The precious opportunities of each moment, the Now

We have grown.

Black Fire This Time is a testimonial and a legacy!

We rise!