

FORT GANSEVOORT

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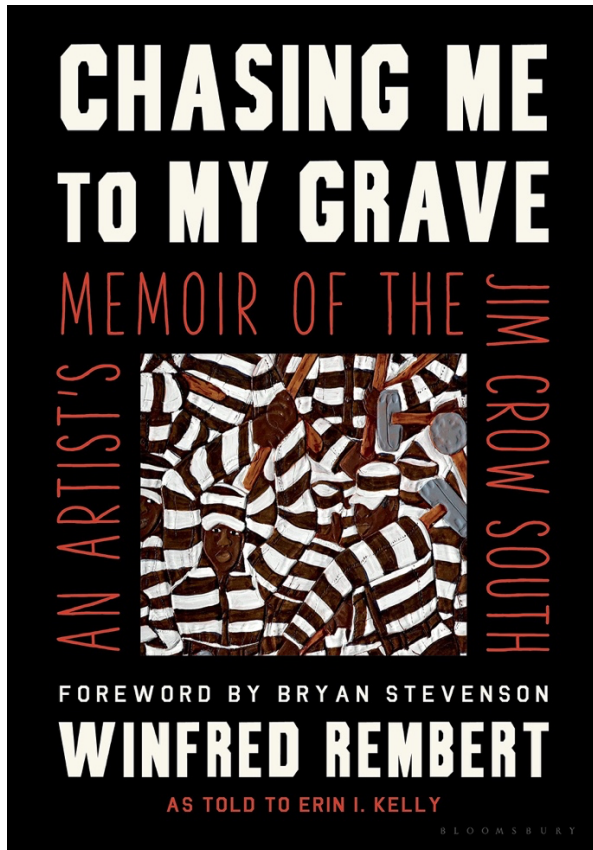


NEWS

New EJI Books Educate Readers About Injustice

Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South

December 24, 2021



Cover for *Chasing Me to My Grave* by Winfred Rembert, 2021
Courtesy Bloomsbury Publishing.

This memoir by Winfred Rembert, one of the nation's most courageous and extraordinary artists, was released shortly after Mr. Rembert passed away in April. EJI director Bryan Stevenson, who wrote the foreword, called it "a compelling and important history that this nation desperately needs to hear."

Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, Publishers Weekly, Booklist, BookPage, Barnes & Noble, and Hudson Booksellers, *Chasing Me to My Grave* was celebrated on the Carnegie Medal of Excellence in Nonfiction Longlist and is an African American Literary Book Club #1 Nonfiction Bestseller, among other accolades.

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The book presents Mr. Rembert's extraordinary body of work alongside the story of his life growing up in a family of Georgia field laborers. When he was a teenager, Mr. Rembert was nearly lynched by law enforcement who arrested him after he participated in a civil rights demonstration. He spent the next seven years working on prison chain gangs.

At age 51, he began to use leather to create vividly detailed pictures of his near-lynching and his time working on the chain gang. He had learned leather-working in prison, and his vibrantly colored, painstakingly carved pieces portrayed joyful and painful scenes from his life in rural Georgia.

Mr. Rembert's work has been exhibited at museums and galleries nationwide and was the subject of an exhibition at the Yale University Art Gallery. Among other accolades, he was awarded a United States Artists Barr Fellowship in 2016.