

How Ernie Barnes Went From The Football Field To The Art Gallery

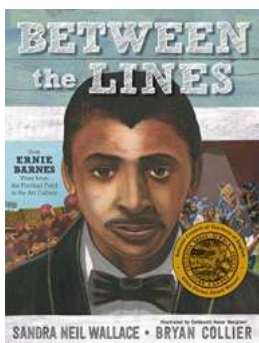
The Journey of Ernie Barnes: From Athlete to Visionary Artist

Ernie Barnes was not your typical artist. Before he discovered his passion for painting, he was a professional football player, known for his incredible athleticism and grace on the field. But it was through an unexpected series of events that Barnes found his true calling as an artist.

Athletics and Artistry: Early Life and Football Career

Ernie Barnes was born on July 15, 1938, in a small town in North Carolina. From a young age, he showed immense talent in both sports and art. His exceptional skills on the football field earned him a scholarship to North Carolina College, where he continued to excel.

After completing college, Barnes embarked on a professional football career, playing as an offensive lineman for several teams in the American Football League (AFL). Although his love for the game was evident, his passion for art never faded.



Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery

by Sandra Neil Wallace (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 81631 KB

Print length : 48 pages

Screen Reader : Supported



The Turning Point: A Chance Encounter and Discovery

It was during his football tenure that Barnes had an encounter that would change the course of his life forever. He happened to meet art collector H.J. Mullen, who noticed his sketches and paintings hanging in the locker room. Mullen immediately recognized Barnes' talent and encouraged him to pursue a career in art.

Intrigued by the suggestion, Barnes started attending art classes while continuing his football career. He honed his artistic skills and gradually developed his own unique style that would later be recognized as the "neo-mannerist" or "neo-miniaturist" movement.

From Football to Fine Arts: Success and Recognition

In 1965, Barnes made the bold decision to leave football and fully commit to his artistic journey. Initially, the transition wasn't easy, and he faced financial struggles. However, his determination and talent soon caught the attention of art enthusiasts and collectors.

Barnes' distinctive style, characterized by elongated figures and vibrant colors, resonated with many art lovers. His paintings beautifully captured the essence of African American life, celebrating the energy, rhythm, and soul of the community.

His breakthrough came in 1971 when his painting "Sugar Shack" was used as the cover art for Marvin Gaye's album, "What's Going On." This immense exposure catapulted Barnes into the art world spotlight, showcasing his exceptional ability to convey emotions through his artwork.

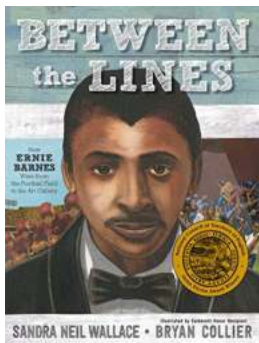
The Legacy of Ernie Barnes

Ernie Barnes didn't just leave a mark on the art scene; he also played a significant role in breaking racial stereotypes through his work. His paintings depicted scenes of joy, love, and community, challenging society's limited perceptions.

Throughout his career, Barnes had numerous solo exhibitions and received various honors and accolades. His art continues to inspire and captivate audiences around the world, with originals displayed in museums, galleries, and private collections.

Ernie Barnes displayed an extraordinary ability to transition from the football field to the art gallery, proving that true talent knows no boundaries. His journey exemplifies the power of perseverance, passion, and the pursuit of one's true calling.

Today, Ernie Barnes' legacy lives on, reminding us of the importance of embracing our diverse talents and pursuing our dreams against all odds. His visionary artwork continues to leave an indelible mark on both the sporting and artistic worlds.



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“A visually striking, enlightening picture-book biography.” —Booklist (starred review) “An absolutely indispensable illustrated biography.” —School Library Journal (starred review) “A well-sourced, stirringly told account of an artist.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) “For sports fans and budding artists alike...a well-told, artfully illustrated story.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

A 2019 Orbis Pictus Book Award Winner * An ALA-ALSC Notable Children’s Book * A SCBWI Golden Kite Honor Book Award * A Booklist Top 10 Biographies for Youth * A Booklist Top 10 Art Books for Youth * A New York Public Library (NYPL) Best Book for Kids * A Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book

Discover the remarkable true story of NFL star Ernie Barnes—a boy who followed his dreams and became one of the most influential artists of his generation—with this beautiful and fascinating nonfiction picture book illustrated by four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier.

“An artist paints his own reality.” —Ernie Barnes

Ernie Barnes was an NFL football player who longed to make art. Finally his dream came true.

When Ernie Barnes was growing up in North Carolina in the 1940s, he loved to draw. Even when he played as a boy with his friends he drew with a stick in the mud. And he never left home without a sketchbook. He would draw families walking home from church, or the old man on the sofa. He drew what he saw.

But in the segregated south, Ernie didn't know how to make a living as an artist. Ernie grew tall and athletic and became a football star. Soon enough the colleges came calling. Still, in his heart Ernie longed to paint. Would that day ever come?

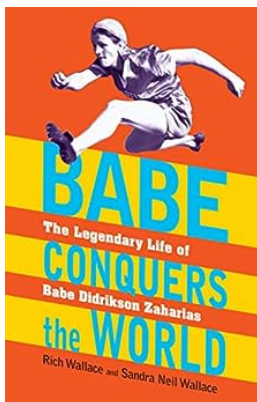
Ernie Barnes was one of the most important artists of his time known for his style of elongation and movement. His work has influenced a generation of painters and illustrators and can be found in museums and collections, such as the African American Museum in Philadelphia and the California African American Museum.

Between the Lines is a story of inspiration, spirit, and of an American original who pursued his dream. This enchanting picture book includes pieces of artwork created by this little known artist who captured the truth and beauty of the world he saw around him.



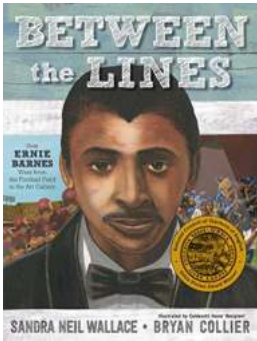
The Untold Story Of Scipio Jones And The Battle To Save Twelve Innocent Men

In the annals of American history, there are countless tales of injustices and fights for justice. One such story that often remains untold is that of Scipio Africanus Jones...



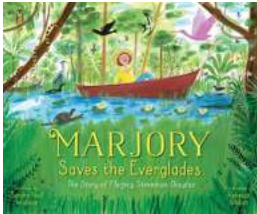
The Legendary Life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias: The Woman Who Defied All Odds

When it comes to legendary athletes, few names surpass that of Babe Didrikson Zaharias. Known for her accomplishments in multiple sports, Zaharias was a true trailblazer who...



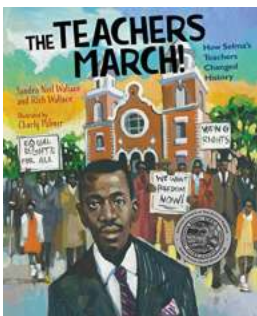
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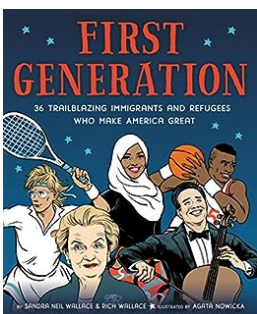
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