



The Sharecropper by Elizabeth Catlett



Elizabeth Catlett

1915-2012

Elizabeth Catlett was an African-American artist who explored themes relating to race, class, and gender. Catlett, whose grandparents were slaves, sought to depicted the struggles of the suppressed. “I have always wanted my art to service my people—to reflect us, to relate to us, to stimulate us, to make us aware of our potential,” she once stated.

Catlett worked in paint, print and sculpture over her career. She spent time in Mexico City, where the public murals by artists such as Diego Rivera impressed on her art’s powerful social function. Rivera’s art inspired her to create a body of work detailing the hardships of African-American women in the South.

Questions:

1. How does Catlett’s work on the left, **The Sharecropper**, fit with what we know of the artist?
2. How do you think being the granddaughter of freed slaves and a black women during a time of segregation influenced her art?