



Black Configurations

The Ethos of “Tradition” from Sterling Brown to Toni Morrison, Volume I

By Kimberly W. Benston

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Volume I of a three-volume study of African-American literary history, with special attention to the internal dialogues regarding concepts of “tradition,” haunting, trauma, and re-vision.

Black Configurations is the first volume of a three-volume study of African-American literary history, with special attention to the internal dialogues regarding concepts of “tradition,” haunting, trauma, and re-vision. Texts studied extend from slave narratives to contemporary works, including both canonical and lesser-known instances of African-American expression.

Readership

Students and scholars of Africana Studies and American Studies; literature and culture in post-Enlightenment modernity; post-colonial and critical race studies.

Key selling points

- Original interpretation of African-American literary tradition
- Lucid integration of theory and practical reading of African-American literature
- Distinctive readings of major texts in the African-American canon from slave narratives to contemporary works
- Engagement of major figures in the tradition, including such luminaries as Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, W.E.B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Malcolm X, Amiri Baraka, Alice Walker, and Toni Morrison

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Kimberly W. Benston is Francis B. Gummere Professor of English and Africana Studies at Haverford College, where he has also served as Provost and President.

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