

MEDIA RELEASE



SCHOMBURG CENTER
FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE
The New York Public Library

The Studio Museum in Harlem
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New York, NY 10027
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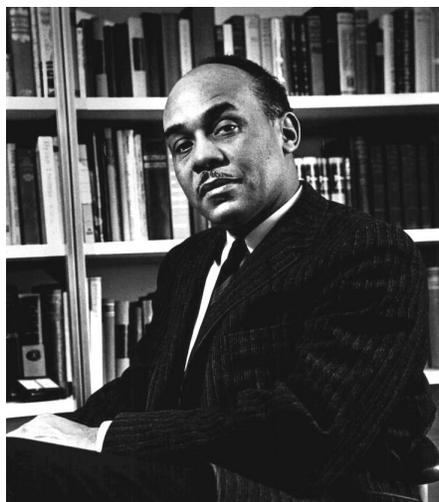
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Announcing *Ellison at 100: Reading Invisible Man*

The Studio Museum and the Schomburg Center celebrate Harlem's iconic writer



Ralph Ellison, 1961
Photographer unknown. Courtesy of the
National Archives. (61-8989, 306-PS-A).

NEW YORK, NY, February 12, 2014—The Studio Museum in Harlem and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are pleased to announce a major collaboration celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of America's greatest writers, Ralph Ellison. On Saturday, March 1, 2014—a century after Ellison's birth in Oklahoma City—***Ellison at 100: Reading Invisible Man*** will kick off a year of programs and initiatives celebrating the Ellison Centennial.

Thanks to support from the Ralph and Fanny Ellison Charitable Trust, ***Ellison at 100*** embraces both the international influence of Ellison's work and his love for the Harlem neighborhood, his home for nearly six decades. From 10 am to 6 pm on March 1, a wide variety of actors, writers, musicians, visual artists and community leaders will stage a collective reading of selections from *Invisible Man* (1952) at the Schomburg Center's Langston Hughes auditorium, located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard and West 135th Street in Harlem. From Harlem youth to celebrated performers, diverse voices will bring highlights from Ellison's iconic novel to life and celebrate its spirit with musical interludes.

Ralph Ellison lived in Harlem from the late 1930s until his death on April 16, 1994. He was a prominent figure in the neighborhood's overlapping literary and artistic communities. ***Ellison at 100: Reading Invisible Man*** honors this legacy through a landmark collaboration between two leading Harlem-based cultural institutions. The

participating artists in the program have been specially curated by the Studio Museum and the Schomburg Center teams, following in both institutions' tradition of exploring Harlem as a site for artistic and literary creation. ***Ellison at 100: Reading Invisible Man*** will engage the energy of the local community, including youth participants in educational programs at both institutions. The event will culminate in a reception featuring music and cuisine of the Harlem neighborhood.

Ellison at 100: Reading Invisible Man is free and open to all, and is organized by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and The Studio Museum in Harlem with the generous support of the Ralph and Fanny Ellison Charitable Trust.

About The Studio Museum in Harlem

Founded in 1968, The Studio Museum in Harlem is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent locally, nationally and globally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture. The Museum is committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer.

The Studio Museum is open Thursdays and Fridays, noon–9 pm; Saturdays, 10 am–6 pm; and Sundays, noon–6 pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults; \$3 for students (with valid identification) and seniors; and free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information, visit studiomuseum.org.

About The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a research unit of The New York Public Library, is generally recognized as one of the leading institutions of its kind in the world. For more than 85 years the Center has collected, preserved, and provided access to materials documenting black life, and promoted the study and interpretation of the history and culture of peoples of African descent. Educational and Cultural Programs at the Schomburg Center complement its research services and interpret its collections. Seminars, forums, workshops, staged readings, film screenings, performing arts programs, and special events are presented year round. More information about Schomburg's collections and programs can be found at schomburgcenter.org.

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