

NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 18, 2017
Contact: Jennifer Knight, Youth Services Librarian
360.417.8500 x7705; jknight@nols.org
Subject: Caldecott Medalist Javaka Steptoe Offers All-Ages Art Workshop
Attached: *JavakaSteptoe.JPG*
Radiant Child_image.jpg

2017 Caldecott Medalist and nationally renowned artist Javaka Steptoe will offer an all-ages hands-on art workshop at the Port Angeles Main Library, Thursday, November 9 at 6:30pm. During the workshop, participants will use a wide variety of materials to make artwork based off themes found in Steptoe's work. Steptoe will also be available to autograph books at the end of the session. Copies of Steptoe's books will be available for purchase at the workshop through Odyssey Bookshop. Space is limited and pre-registration is required; register online at www.nols.org, or call 360-417-8500 x7705 and speak to library staff. Adults and children of all ages are welcome to attend, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

About Javaka Steptoe

Steptoe won the 2017 Caldecott Medal and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award for his book *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*, published by Little, Brown & Company. Other work by Steptoe include *In Daddy's Arms I am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers*, *Do You Know What I'll Do?*, *The Jones Family Express*, and *Amiri and Odette: A Love Story*.

Steptoe was inspired in part by his father, award-winning author and children's book illustrator, John Steptoe (*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, *The Story of Jumping Mouse*, *Stevie*). Utilizing everyday

objects from aluminum plates to pocket lint, and sometimes illustrating with a jigsaw and paint, he delivers reflective and thoughtful collage creations filled with vitality, playful energy, and strength. Through the use of family as a recurring theme, Steptoe creates artwork that celebrates the richness of our collective past and memory. His artistry is a reflection of his commitment to children's education. As Steptoe explains, art is survival, it is ingenuity, critical thinking, and self-expression and fosters self-esteem and empathy.

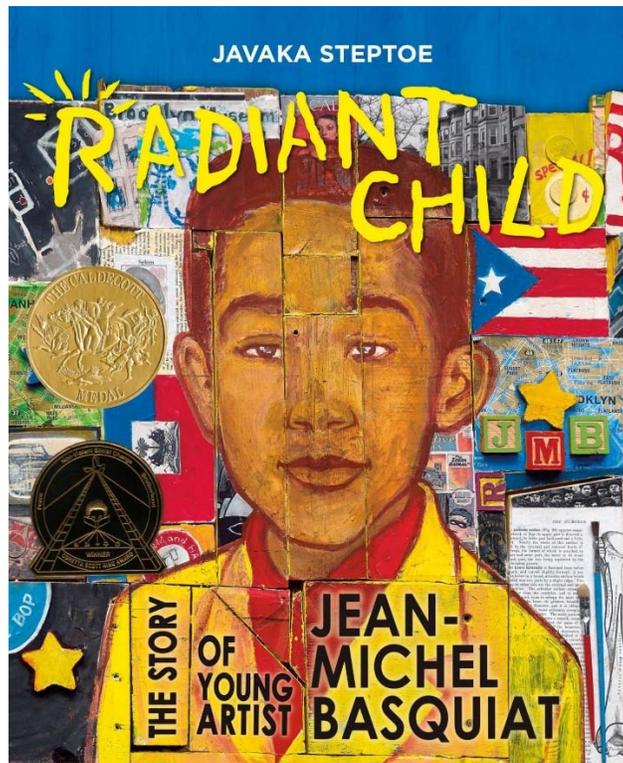
His Caldecott Award winning work, *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* focuses on the life of renowned artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and explores the creative process. Steptoe blended his style with his interpretations of Basquiat's work, creating a unique and powerful tribute. The book was also awarded the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award. Basquiat, who died at the age of 27 in 1988 made headlines recently after the sale of one of his paintings, *Untitled*, sold for \$111 million. Steptoe currently lives in New York City.

Prior to the all ages-art class, Steptoe will speak to local elementary school students visiting the Port Angeles Main Library about art and his career.

Funding for this program has been generously provided by the Port Angeles Friends of the Library. For additional information about this and other upcoming programs, visit www.nols.org, contact the Port Angeles Main Library at 360.417.8500, or email Discover@nols.org. The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street.



Author and Illustrator Javaka Steptoe, Copyright Hidden Chapel Studios



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