Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with R. Gregory Christie

Christie, Gregory, 1971-

Alternative Names: R. Gregory Christie;

Life Dates: July 26, 1971-

Place of Birth: Plainfield, New Jersey, USA

Work: Mableton, GA

Occupations: Illustrator

Biographical Note

Illustrator and freelance artist Richard Gregory Christie was born on July 26, 1971 in Plainfield, New Jersey to Ludra V. St. Amant Christie and Gerard Adoltus Christie. Raised by his mother, a Louisiana Creole, and his father, a Jamaican pharmacist, Christie was raised in the Scotch Plains community of Plainfield near the Jerseyland Resort. He attended St. Bartholomew the Apostle Elementary School where he demonstrated a talent for art early on. In 1985, Christie worked for Commercial Art and Supply while he

In 1994, Christie illustrated the album cover of Justice System’s Summer in the City. Soon, his work graced the covers of jazz labels from all over the world, including Joe Sample’s Old Places Old Faces Warner Brothers, 1996; George Benson’s A Song for my Brother Giant Step Records, 1997; and Coltrane The Complete 1961 Village Vanguard Recordings GRP Impulse, 1997. Christie’s’ illustrations also appeared in numerous publications in Europe, Asia and America. In 1996, he illustrated Lucille Clifton’s The Palm of My Heart; Poetry by African American Children. The book won a Coretta Scott King Award honor from the American Library Association and a Reading Magic Award from Parenting magazine.

Christie has illustrated the biographies of many other significant historical and cultural figures, including Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, and Sojourner Truth. In 2006, he won a Coretta Scott King Award honor for Brothers in Hope; The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan, and for illustrating Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth. Currently, Christie is a regular contributor to The New Yorker magazine.

**Related Entries**

**Fanwood High School** [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

**H.S.**

**St. Bartholomew the Apostle Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]
Elementary

School of Visual Arts [STUDENTOFS]
[from ? to ?]

B.F.A.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Various Positions

Books In Black [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Book Artist