

# RUTH E. CARTER

## Afrofuturism in Costume Design

### ON VIEW JUNE 18, 2022, THROUGH JANUARY 2023

Immerse yourself in the creative journey of costume designer Ruth E. Carter, the 2019 Academy Award Winner for Achievement in Costume Design for her imaginative and influential work on Marvel's *Black Panther*, making history as the first African American to win in the category.

Ruth Carter has been dazzling audiences and critics alike with her costume designs for more than 35 years and is best known for films such as Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* and *Malcolm X*, Steven Spielberg's *Amistad*, Eddie Murphy's *Dolemite is My Name*, *Coming 2 America*, and Marvel's *Black Panther*. Carter's films uniquely capture the African American narrative and not only leave their mark in cinematic history, but also influence fashion and culture.

### EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

- 60+ costumes designed by Ruth E. Carter from films including *Black Panther*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Selma*, *Malcolm X*, *Roots*, *Coming 2 America*, and more
- Immersive, interactive experiences including a *Black Panther* "Warrior Falls" photo opportunity
- Afrofuturistic installation incorporating original artwork by Brandon Sadler
- Original drawings, paintings, photographs, sketches, and mood boards
- Descriptive text panels with supplemental digital materials

### MEDIA CONTACT

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### RUTH CARTER ON HER PROCESS

Ruth E. Carter describes Afrofuturism as the "African culture and diaspora using technology and intertwining it with imagination, self-expression, and an entrepreneurial spirit."

Often the word technology is used to describe something that is "high-tech," but it means the application of knowledge. Carter's process is rooted in research which she then applies to the design and creation of costumes, making all her work highly Afrofuturistic.

She credits the success of her designs to her research which she describes as a "slow and patient process which cannot be rushed." Beyond studying images, Carter also consults other sources. She includes time in her research process for, "reading about a time period, speaking to historians, studying the way the mind thought and body moved, and learning about innovative or ancient design techniques that can enhance the costume."