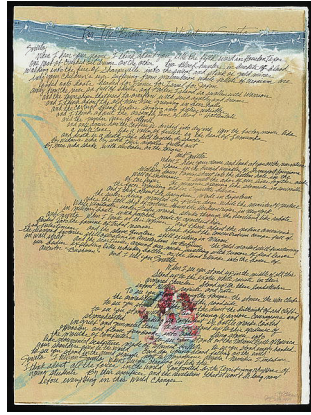


LANGUAGE

Language is important to Melvin Edwards. Many of the words he uses in his titles have multiple meanings or interpretations. Some of the titles of his work are lines of poetry. In 1972 he married poet Jayne Cortez. Edwards illustrated several of her books.



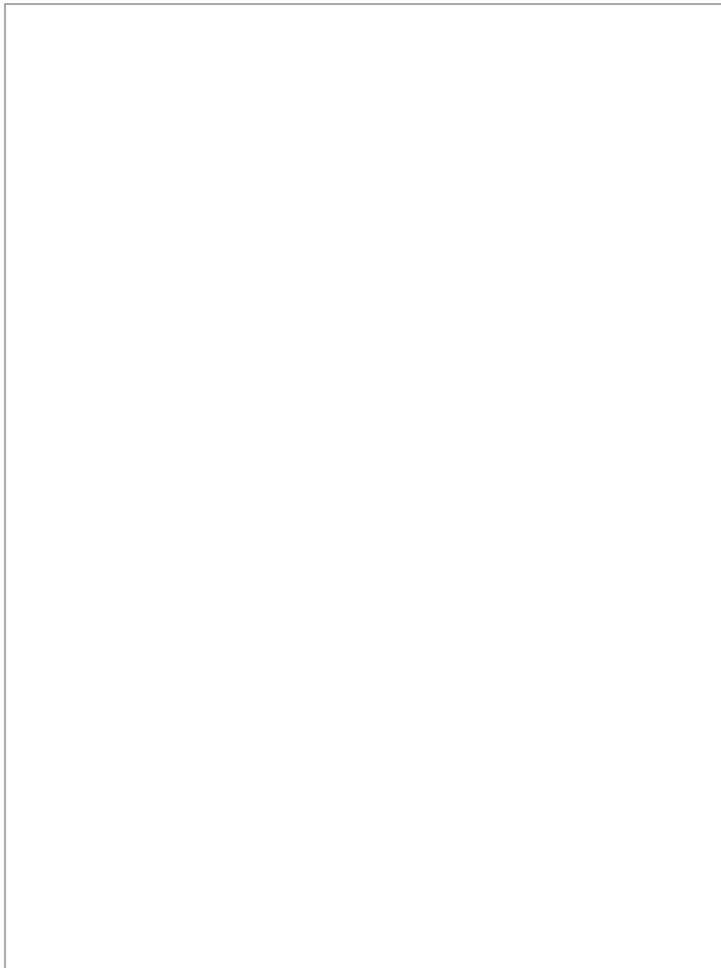
Melvin Edwards (b. 1937) and Jayne Cortez (b.1936), For the Brave Young Students in Soweto, 1984.

HOW WOULD YOU ILLUSTRATE THESE LINES:

These New York City Pigeons Jayne Cortez

(excerpt)

These New York City pigeons
cooing in the air shaft
are responsible for me
stumping my toe
spraining my ankle



FAMILY GUIDE

MELVIN EDWARDS: FIVE DECADES



MEET ARTIST, MELVIN EDWARDS

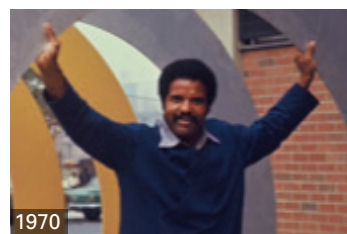
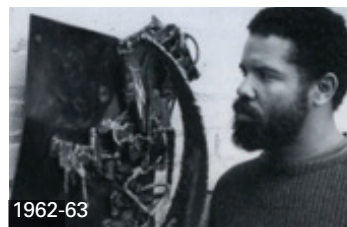


Edwards was born in Houston, Texas in 1937 and grew up in Dayton, Ohio.



Edwards later moved to Los Angeles, California to play football at the University of Southern California.

Currently Edwards lives in New York and Dakar, Senegal. He loves to travel and visit new places.

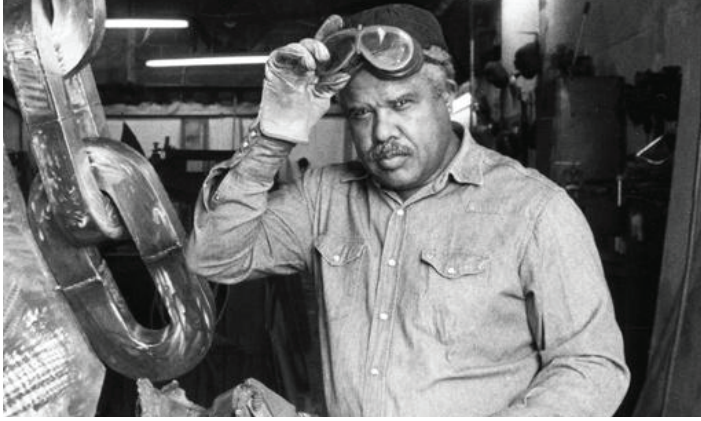


Melvin Edwards comes from a family of makers. His mother sewed, his grandmother made quilts and his father created his own tools.

ARE THERE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY WHO LIKE TO CREATE NEW THINGS?

Edwards' advice for young artists is, **"Just be one."** He also jokes, **"And if possible, be an old one."**

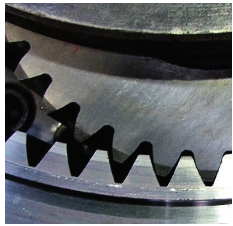
WELDED METAL SCULPTURE



In 1960 Edwards learned how to weld from George Baker (a graduate student at USC).

"Once I started to weld steel, I realized how much of the world I lived in is welded."

YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE FAMILIAR OBJECTS IN HIS SCULPTURES



Gears



Chains



Railroad Spikes



Horseshoe



Hammerhead



Rake

WHAT OTHER OBJECTS DO YOU RECOGNIZE?

Edwards welds scrap pieces of metal together, giving them new meaning. Edwards is interested in social justice and human rights.

WHAT COULD YOU DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO ENCOURAGE FAIRNESS OR DISCOURAGE BULLYING?

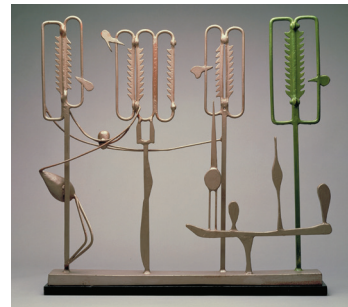
Edwards is a part of a great tradition of artists that create sculpture using welded metal.

FIND THESE SCULPTURES AND WRITE THE NAME OF THE ARTIST.



Artist:

This artist created sculptures using crushed car parts. He also experimented with aluminum foil, brown paper bags, automobile paint and Plexiglas.



Artist:

This artist learned how to weld while working in a car factory. He created his first welded steel sculpture in 1933.



Artist:

This artist said, "I take material that is already degenerating, flaking and rusting, and then try to make something beautiful of it." He created sculptures with pipes, nuts, bolts, screws, clockworks and other scrap from junkyards.



Artist:

This artist and his brother were trained to create sculpture from their father, who was a sculptor and a metal worker. He also attended classes at the School of Fine Arts in Barcelona.