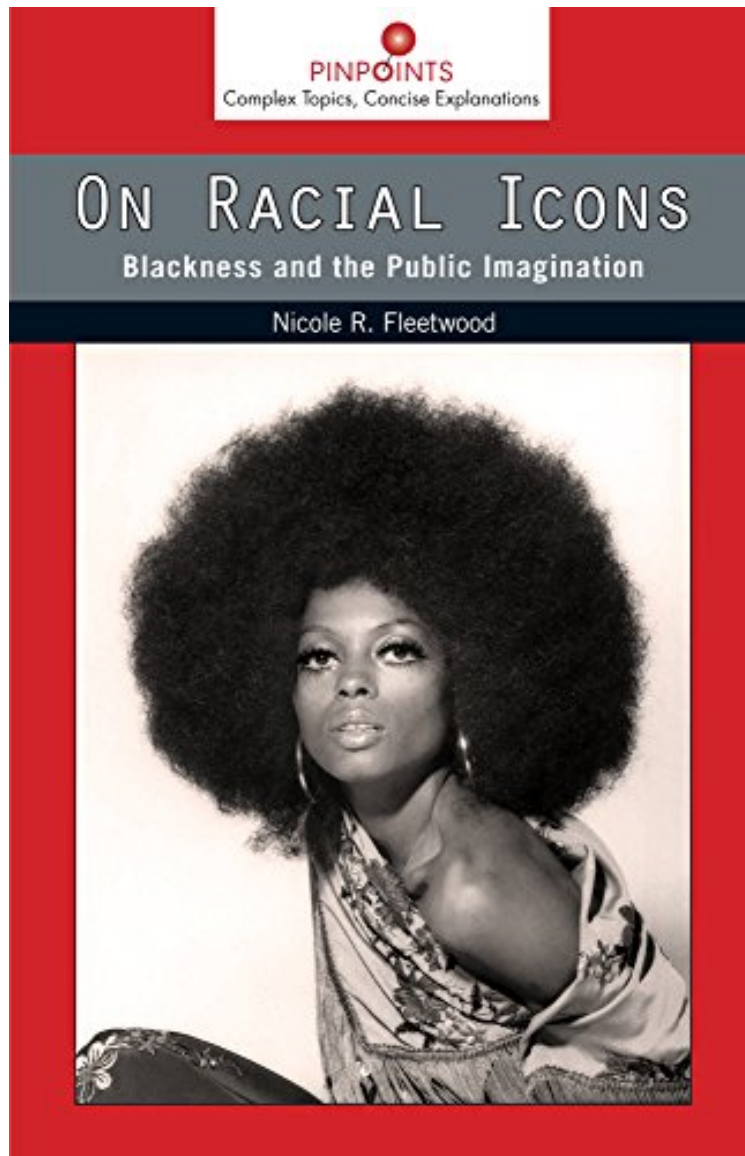


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On Racial Icons: Blackness and the Public Imagination (Pinpoints)

Nicole R. Fleetwood

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#723368 in Books Fleetwood Nicole R 2015-07-15 2015-06-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.56 x .41 x 5.44l, .0 #File Name: 0813565154144 pagesOn Racial Icons Blackness and the Public Imagination | File size: 35.Mb

Nicole R. Fleetwood : On Racial Icons: Blackness and the Public Imagination (Pinpoints) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Racial Icons: Blackness and the Public Imagination (Pinpoints):

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Such an important book at such a crucial timeBy Chicago ReaderYet again Nicole Fleetwood offers a compelling and undoubtedly adroit analysis of the junctures of U.S. visual culture and

discourses of Blackness. Though the book is compact, it is packed with depth and complexity. For example, Fleetwood lingers in the more difficult moments--those rife with affective energies--when she discusses the complex ways in which Trayvon Martin's death (at the hands of George Zimmerman) has become iconic in U.S. visual culture. Moreover, the book asks us to think systematically and critically about visual culture, blackness, and American public culture vis-a-vis a host of figures (i.e., Diana Ross, Serena Williams, LeBron James, etc). Throughout the text, Fleetwood is interested in the question of: "how do racial iconic images become part of the story that Americans tell each other and the world about the unfolding of nation and the possibility of democracy"? This question is key, especially in our current public milieu, because it calls into question the very complicated notion of "democracy" and, in so doing, asks us to consider those bodies living in a state of vulnerable democracy. Ultimately, the book is very thought-provoking and written with clarity so that various audiences could read and understand some of the ideas and issues Fleetwood is grappling with it. Read it!

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. smart Lady. By N. Hickman My niece wrote this. Intellignet Professor, smart Lady. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent writer. By T. Carlace Such incredible depth in analyzing the concept. I've recommended the book to several people for a perceptive view.

What meaning does the American public attach to images of key black political, social, and cultural figures? Considering photography's role as a means of documenting historical progress, what is the representational currency of these images? How do racial icons signify? Nicole R. Fleetwood's answers to these questions will change the way you think about the next photograph that you see depicting a racial event, black celebrity, or public figure. In *On Racial Icons*, Fleetwood focuses a sustained look on photography in documenting black public life, exploring the ways in which iconic images function as celebrations of national and racial progress at times or as a gauge of collective racial wounds in moments of crisis. Offering an overview of photography's ability to capture shifting race relations, Fleetwood spotlights in each chapter a different set of iconic images in key sectors of public life. She considers flash points of racialized violence in photographs of Trayvon Martin and Emmett Till; the political, aesthetic, and cultural shifts marked by the rise of pop stars such as Diana Ross; and the power and precarity of such black sports icons as Serena Williams and LeBron James; and she does not miss Barack Obama and his family along the way. *On Racial Icons* is an eye-opener in every sense of the phrase.

"Nicole Fleetwood's astute study makes transparent the power of images and strengthens our understanding as to how significant black figures transformed our imaginary as a fixed construction based on media perceptions. An impressive read!"