

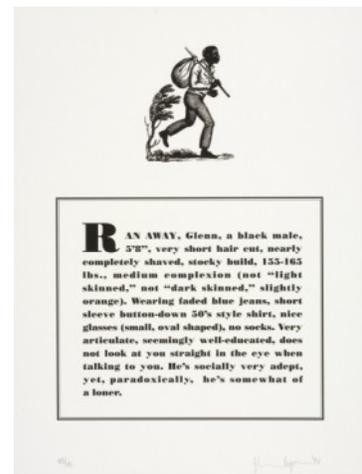
Glenn Ligon: Runaways, January 9, 2004-March 7, 2004

To create this print portfolio, entitled *Runaways*, conceptual artist Glenn Ligon (American, b. 1960) closely studied 19th-century broadsheets (posters) announcing runaway slaves. He also looked at abolitionist publications with portraits of Frederick Douglass and other famous escaped slaves. Ligon then asked his friends to write descriptions of him without telling them his purpose.

Runaways appropriates all of this material – the distinctive typeface and visual conventions of the runaway slave posters, 19th-century caricatures of African Americans, and ennobling images from the abolitionists – and combines it with ten different descriptions of the artist himself, a contemporary African American man. By substituting the description of his own body for the text about the runaway, Ligon asks his viewers to consider how the history of slavery still reverberates in the United States today. How do we describe others? How do we describe ourselves? For Glenn Ligon, identity is socially constructed and inextricably connected to the past.

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960
Ran Away, 1993
Lithograph
Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.10



RISD MUSEUM

Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960

Runaway (Glenn. He is black. He has very short hair and eye glasses),
1993

Lithograph on paper

Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.9



Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960

Runaway (Glenn, a black man - early 30's, very short cropped hair),
1993

Lithograph on paper

Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.8



Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960

Runaway (Glenn, 5' 7" - 5' 9", Medium-small build), 1993

lithograph

Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.7



RISD MUSEUM

Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960

Runaway (Glenn, a young black man twenty-eight years old), 1993

Lithograph on medium-weight cream wove paper

Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.6



Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960

Ran away (Young man and Owner), 1993

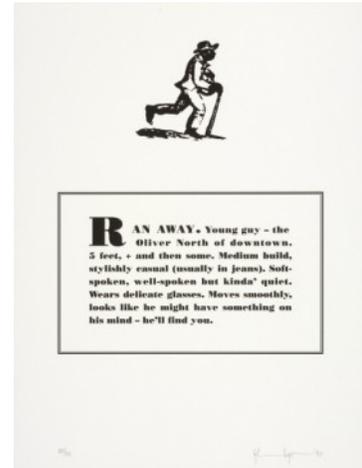
Lithograph on paper

Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.5



RISD MUSEUM

Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960
Runaway (Young guy - the Oliver North of downtown), 1993
Lithograph on paper
Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.4



Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960
Runaway (a man named Glenn, five feet eight inches high), 1993
Lithograph on paper
Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.3



Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960
Runaway (a man named Glenn. He has almost no hair), 1993
Lithograph on paper
Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.2



RISD MUSEUM

Glenn Ligon, American, b. 1960
Runaway (Glenn, Medium height, 5' 8", male), 1993
Lithograph on paper
Mary B. Jackson Fund 2001.32.1.1

