

Amy Sherald

They call me Redbone but I'd rather be
Strawberry Shortcake



It Made Sense...Mostly In Her Mind



NATIONAL MUSEUM of WOMEN *in the* ARTS

They call me Redbone but I'd rather be Strawberry Shortcake, 2009

It Made Sense...Mostly In Her Mind, 2011

Grays Anatomy

Baltimore-based **Amy Sherald (b. 1973)** perceives racial identity as something we construct and perform. She presents her subjects with unusual costumes and props. The resulting characters seem to float, spot-lit against vivid backgrounds—fantastic and playful, yet uncanny.

Take a closer look

Sherald works from color photographs of her models, but renders their skin tones in a range of gray shades. By removing the “color” of her subjects, Sherald challenges our cultural tendency to view color as race.

In her own words

“While attending private schools and being one of two or three black children, I was raised to be conscious of how I acted, spoke, and dressed. This performing aspect of my identity... was the key to my social acceptance and assimilation.”

Amy Sherald, *They call me Redbone but I'd rather be Strawberry Shortcake*, 2009; Oil on canvas; 54 x 43 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Steven Scott, Baltimore, in honor of the artist and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; © Amy Sherald; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

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