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LENS

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Sight/Site

The Ralph Ellison Memorial is a sculpture 15 feet high at Riverside Drive and 150th Street, near the apartment building where Ellison lived for many years. Ellison's novel "Invisible Man" articulates the frustrations of a young black man's treatment as a second-class citizen. The design of the memorial, by Elizabeth Catlett, gives form to the sense of invisibility by presenting a cutout of a forceful male figure in a large bronze rectangle. The sculpture sits in a landscaped island at the end of the street and places the silhouetted form against the backdrop of the forest and river views in Riverside Park, where Ellison loved to sit. Ellison is buried in Trinity Cemetery, to the north.