

Charles M. Blow is the Visual Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times*, where his column appears every Monday and Thursday. Mr. Blow's columns tackle hot-button issues such as teen pregnancy, the national debt, the presidential race, gender roles, and the gay rights movement. Blow joined *The Times* in 1994 as the paper's graphics editor; during his tenure he led the publication to win awards for work that included its information graphics coverage of 9/11 and the Iraq war.

Mr. Blow is a CNN contributor, and also often appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe*. He has appeared on *Andrea Mitchell Reports*, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, CNN's *American Morning*, *Headline News' The Joy Behar Show*, Fox News' *Fox and Friends*, the BBC and Al Jazeera, as well as numerous radio programs.

Charles' *New York Times* Bestselling memoir, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, was released in September 2014. In this captivating book, he mines the rich poetry of the out-of-time Louisiana town where he grew up--a place where slavery's legacy felt close, reverberating in the elders' stories and in the near constant wash of violence. An isolated boy, Blow is fiercely attached to his mother, a woman with five sons, brass knuckles in her glove box, a job plucking poultry, a soon to be ex-husband, and a love of newspapers and learning. But the closeness doesn't protect him from secret abuse at the hands of an older cousin. It's damage that triggers years of searing self-questioning, and Charles explores how this affected his college life and beyond. It is a bravely personal, one-of-a-kind story of self-invention--an instant classic of African American storytelling from the South.

Mr. Blow graduated magna cum laude from Grambling State University in Louisiana, where he received a B.A. in Mass Communications. He lives in Brooklyn with his three children.