Eye Pop: The Celebrity Gaze

Today, in a society consumed with image-making, millions use social media to craft representations of themselves. We are saturated with the visual: faces surround us 24/7.

Meanwhile, the subjects of this exhibition—celebrities, achievers, or both—are fully aware that a large number of people will see and judge them, and they respond accordingly, with a “gaze”—an attitude—of their own. They are aware that fame is fleeting, public attention is fickle, and the eye is always on the next big thing. How do we, the viewers, separate the “one-hit wonder” from the person with staying power?

And then you factor in the artist. Portrait-making by definition involves the relationship between the artist (who gazes at the sitter), the sitter (who gazes first at the artist and then, by extension, the viewer), and the viewer (who gazes at the sitter).

Subject, artist, and viewer: each person brings something to the process of creating these portraits. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor appears smiling yet steely. Designer Marc Jacobs confronts the viewer as a cheeky bad boy.

“Eye Pop” examines twenty-first-century celebrity and achievement in this context of portrait-making. Celebrity evolved during the modern age, when visual media such as popular magazines, newspapers, and film began to reproduce the images of the famous and make—or break—a career. The concept of achievement is a traditional American idea, but how do we measure it today, when everything is reduced to online popularity?

From surfers to scientists, athletes to actors, “Eye Pop” uses the National Portrait Gallery’s recent acquisitions to survey the landscape of American culture. Who will be in the limelight five years from now?
Artist Elizabeth Peyton, long drawn to painting controversial rock stars, uses soft grays and a generous brushstroke to highlight rapper Eminem’s fine features and strong tattoos. He assesses the viewer with a look that is at once steely-eyed and alluring. Eminem (born Marshall Mathers) has made a Grammy-winning career out of blurring boundaries—between white and black America, obscenity and vulnerability, despair and fantasy. Bullied as a child growing up in Detroit, Eminem thrived in rap battle competitions. In 1997 his first album, The Slim Shady LP, caught the attention of legendary rapper and impresario Dr. Dre. His second, The Marshall Mathers LP, went diamond, selling more than ten million copies despite its controversial lyrics. His 2002 autobiographical movie, 8 Mile, led to an Academy Award for the song “Lose Yourself.” Eminem’s current staying power may be seen in his critically acclaimed “Monster” tour with Rihanna, and in the distinction of being the first rapper to headline London’s Wembley Stadium, in 2014.

Elizabeth Peyton (born 1965)
Etching with aquatint, 2003
C/NPG.2012.57
A signal voice of the Indian American immigrant experience, Jhumpa Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize with her debut short-story collection, *The Interpreter of Maladies* (1999), which catapulted her into the public eye. Born in London to Bengali parents, Lahiri moved to Rhode Island at age two. During her childhood, she was acutely aware of her unique background and sought solace in reading. It was as an adult, while obtaining a doctorate in literature, that she realized the expressive outlet that writing offered and changed course to pursue a literary career.

David Levine’s caricature of Lahiri, accompanying a book review of *Unaccustomed Earth* (2008), emphasizes her cerebral personality. Her intellect is the star here. At the same time, by showing her in traditional dress, seated on the floor with a computer, Levine suggests the dual Western/Eastern identity that Lahiri has explored in written form. Her most recent novel, *The Lowlands* (2013), was a finalist for the National Book Award.

David Levine (1926–2009)

Ink over graphite on paper, 2003

NPG.2013.39

AN
A caricaturist who used exaggeration and wit to brilliant effect, David Levine perhaps met his match in depicting the screenwriting/directing team of Joel and Ethan Coen, brothers who have created a body of work that is idiosyncratic, satiric, and influenced by the film noir tradition.

With unnaturally large heads and connected by a film strip, the Academy Award–winning pair, although naked, look out at us with a fierce seriousness, a combination suggesting the bizarre sense of humor found in their films. Born to parents who were professors, they began making movies as children in the mid-1960s.

The Coen brothers’ early comedies about murder, Fargo (1996), and a pot-smoking philosopher, The Big Lebowski (1998)—and later psychological portraits, such as No Country for Old Men (2007)—are critically acclaimed for writing and direction, as well as superb performances by such actors as Jeff Bridges and Frances McDormand. Their most recent film, Inside Llewyn Davis (2013), won the Cannes grand prize.

David Levine (1926–2009)
Ink over graphite on paper, 1994
NPG.2012.13
EP04

Anne Tyler  born 1941

*Born Minneapolis, Minnesota*

A prolific, fastidious observer of the everyday and a conjurer of eccentrics, Anne Tyler has written nearly twenty novels over the span of five decades, her most well-known arguably being *The Accidental Tourist* (1985). In a 1976 review in *The New Yorker*, John Updike—an author similarly dedicated to the travails of the everyman—proclaimed her writing “wickedly good.” In this illustration accompanying a review of Tyler’s *The Amateur Marriage* (2004), David Levine shows the writer in her typical topknot, using a magnifying glass to analyze bride and groom figurines atop a wedding cake. The magnifying glass is an apt metaphor for Tyler’s writing style: rich with minute details that allow us to inhabit the small, ordinary moments of her characters. Also alluding to her penchant for the mild-mannered, Levine shows Tyler smiling at the viewer, despite her quasi-scientific task at hand. The Pulitzer Prize–winning writer recently completed what she says is her final novel, *A Spool of Blue Thread* (2015).

David Levine (1926–2009)

Ink over graphite on paper, 2004

NPG.2012.14

AN
Marc Jacobs  born 1963

*Born New York City*

In Elizabeth Peyton’s portrait of a youthful-looking Marc Jacobs, the worlds of art and fashion intersect in fruitful, mutually creative ways, going beyond aesthetics to encompass the glamour and sex appeal of public display and commerce. Jacobs’s dazzlingly successful design career has morphed from a controversial “grunge” collection for Perry Ellis, to the establishment of his own ongoing “Marc Jacobs” and “Marc by Marc Jacobs” labels, to his role as the creative director for the prestigious Louis Vuitton company, a job he left in 2013. As a designer, Jacobs fully embraces the public element of celebrity, and his brooding sensuality is a part of his—and his brand’s—allure.

Peyton’s celebrity portraits often imply the androgyny, youthful beauty, and ennui of the fashion world. Here she acknowledges the influence of fashion and fashion photography, depicting Jacobs confronting the viewer as a cheeky, disheveled bad boy, replete with cigarette.

Elizabeth Peyton (born 1965)

Etching on pink silk laminated paper, 2003

Acquired through the Paul M. and Christine G. Wick Fund

S/NPG.2009.77

WWR
Albert Pujols  born 1980

*Born Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic*

First with the St. Louis Cardinals (2001–11), with whom he won two World Series titles, and then with the Los Angeles Angels (2012–present), Albert Pujols has proven himself one of the most feared power hitters in baseball. A three-time MVP and nine-time All-Star, Pujols already has more than 500 home runs while also hitting for a career average of .317. Pujols, a big man, is the prototype for the power-hitting first baseman/designated hitter. After the 2011 season, and despite his success with the Cardinals, Pujols chose to sign with the Angels for ten years and $254 million dollars—a deal that was widely criticized for being too much for a slugger in the second half of his career. In sports, the numbers count: performance in the arena defines them.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2006 (printed 2007)

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.26

DCW
Serena Williams and her older sister, Venus, were trained on the public tennis courts of Compton, California, by their father to become tennis champions. Both sisters have more than fulfilled his expectations, becoming two of the greatest players of all time as well as stamping an African American presence on the sport. As of January 2015, Serena Williams is the number-one ranked woman player in the world. She has won nineteen Grand Slam singles titles, including five Wimbledon Championships and the 2014 U.S. Open. Serena has a serve that is rivaled in the women’s game only by her sister’s, and both rely on their power and court coverage to aggressively pressure their opponents. The Williams sisters’ powerful, fierce personas, coupled with their dominant abilities, allow them an extra level of psychological advantage over their opponents.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)
Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2007
Gift of the artist and ESPN
NPG.2013.84.37

DCW
Shaun White, aka “The Flying Tomato” (for his once-long red hair, which he has now trimmed), is a professional X Games athlete, specializing in both skate- and snowboarding. Raised in Vermont and Southern California, White has won two Olympic gold medals in the snowboard half-pipe in successive winter games (2006, 2010). He has also been a multiple medalist in other national and international boarding competitions. Having overcome a heart defect as an infant, White started skateboarding at an early age and was discovered by the modern pioneer of the sport, Tony Hawk. White is clearly Hawk’s successor as the face of alternative games, not only because of his skill on the boards but also for his infectious, effervescent personality.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)
Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2006
Gift of the artist and ESPN
C/NPG.2013.84.36
Venus Williams  born 1980

Born Lynwood, California

Although the Williams sisters are frequently considered as a pair, they have distinct personalities and each has been a champion in her own right. As the older sibling, Venus had the weight of being first, not least in asserting the way that the sisters play: powerful and with an all-out athleticism that is ferocious to watch. Although the sisters are uncomfortable playing each other, theirs is one of the transcendent rivalries of sports. The Williams sisters have monopolized the major trophies in recent tennis history; Venus trails only Serena in titles won on the women’s tour. Venus has won nine Grand Slam tournaments, an Olympic Gold Medal (2000), and numerous doubles titles playing with her sister. Her game has fluctuated in recent years because of health and injury problems, and while her career is clearly at a crossroad, she remains a dominant player when in form.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2006 (printed 2007)

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.38

DCW
Michael Phelps born 1985

\textit{Born Towson, Maryland}

Swimming is rarely in the American public eye except during the Olympic games, and Michael Phelps has become a household name because of his incredible domination of the sport across three Olympiads. At the Beijing Olympics (2008) he took home a staggering eight gold medals. His career total is eighteen gold medals, double the number of the next-highest winner. Phelps has also won multiple titles at the world championships and at other major swim competitions. Although past his peak, Phelps still won four golds and two silvers in the 2012 London games, and he is aiming for a place in the pool for the 2016 games in Brazil. Phelps, even more than most athletes because he is nearly invisible in the water, is present to us in his record-breaking domination of the pool but remains a mysterious, elusive persona.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2007

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.25
Renowned for her luminous soprano and dynamic stage presence, Renée Fleming is among the world’s most popular opera and concert artists. After winning the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (1988), Fleming appeared with several major opera companies at home and abroad before making her critically acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut in 1991 as the Countess in Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*. Rather than confining herself to a small range of roles, she has built a diverse repertoire of more than fifty operas over the course of her career. Known as “the people’s diva,” Fleming is a far cry from the prima donnas of old. Although this glamorous image shows her on stage basking in the spotlight, the four-time Grammy winner has frequently ventured beyond the confines of the opera house. She released the indie-rock album *Dark Hope* (2010), and in 2014 became the first operatic performer to sing the national anthem at the Super Bowl.

Annie Leibovitz (born 1949)

Pigment print, 2008 (printed 2012)

NPG.2012.51
Kobe Bryant’s father was the well-traveled basketball player Joe “Jellybean” Bryant. Kobe, who was named after the expensive Japanese steak, spent some of his youth in Europe, where his father played professionally. Drafted out of high school in Philadelphia, Bryant has spent his entire career with the Los Angeles Lakers. He was the next NBA superstar after Michael Jordan: a five-time NBA champion; the league MVP in 2008; and a sixteen-time All-Star—he once scored eighty-one points in a game. Bryant, not unlike Jordan, can be a difficult teammate. Extremely emotive, Bryant dominates the court not just with his play but also with a ferocious scowl that he directs toward teammates, opponents, and the audience. Bryant was charged with sexual assault in Colorado (2003–4); the suit was later dropped and a settlement was reached with the complainant.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2007

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.5
Jeff Gordon  born 1971

*Born Vallejo, California*

One of the dominant drivers on the NASCAR circuit, four-time Winston Cup champion Jeff Gordon is part of the new breed of drivers who broke into stock car racing in the 1990s. Personable, media-savvy, and a Californian, Gordon is at odds with the sport’s “good-old-boy” roots in the South; his persona as a quiet, humble “boy next door” is at odds with the rough-and-tumble personalities prized by racing’s fans. He especially drew the ire of Dale Earnhardt’s supporters, who regarded him as inauthentic and “middle class.” But Gordon’s skill on the track is undeniable, winning him respect, if not affection. He has more than ninety victories on the NASCAR circuit, racing the powerful Hendrick Motorsports team’s number twenty-four car. He is a strong contender for a fifth title as the 2014 NASCAR season concludes. After finishing sixth in the 2014 season, Gordon announced he would retire at the end of 2015.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium toned-gelatin silver print, 2002

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.9

DCW
LeBron James  born 1984

*Born Akron, Ohio*

In the summer of 2014, LeBron James stunned the sports world by leaving the Miami Heat, with whom he had won two NBA titles, to return to his first team, the Cleveland Cavaliers, in his home state of Ohio. James was seemingly set in Miami; he had promised the team on his arrival in 2010, “not one, not two, not three, not four. . .” titles. Leaving Miami broke up the so-called “dream team” of James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh, but it helped restore James’s image, which had been tarnished by the televised orchestration of his decision to “take his talents to South Beach” in 2010. When *Vogue* pictured him on a 2008 cover as King Kong holding model Gisele Bündchen, the image raised troubling questions of racial insensitivity. James is the dominant ballplayer of his time and capable of breathtaking feats on the hardwood. He is a four-time league MVP and a two-time MVP in the NBA finals.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2006 (printed 2007)

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.13

DCW
As a performer and entrepreneur, Tony Hawk is the single most important figure in the modern history of skateboarding and the X Games. The development of sticky, adhesive skateboard wheels allowed athletes to do many more tricks and maneuvers with the board than had been possible with the first, hard compound wheels in the 1960s. Skateboarding appealed particularly to boys who took an edgy stance against mainstream team sports. Hawk gravitated to it because he needed to burn off energy as a hyperactive child. He quickly became adept, turning professional at age fourteen; he won the national skateboarding world championship twelve years straight and was the first competitor to complete a number of tricks, including two-and-a-half revolutions in midair (a “900”). A lanky, amiable presence with floppy hair and an oversize helmet, Hawk is transformed as he launches himself and his board into the air. He retired in 1999 but continues to do exhibitions, appear on TV and in movies, and market his line of equipment and clothing for X Gamers.

Rick Chapman (born 1966)
Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2002
Gift of the artist and ESPN
NPG.2013.84.11
Dwyane Wade  born 1982

*Born Chicago, Illinois*

Now a seasoned veteran, Dwyane Wade has been one of the best NBA players since the Miami Heat drafted him fifth overall out of Marquette, where he was an All-American. He has won three NBA championships, one as the star of the Heat team by himself in 2006—he was named finals MVP—and two with his former teammate LeBron James. A shooting guard, Wade has the ability to be a high-volume scorer—he led the league in 2008–9—and he is also an adept at adjusting his playing to those around him. After being the focal point of his 2006 team, he adapted to the subordinate role of becoming Robin to James’s Batman. Wade always looks like he’s working hard on the court, a contrast to the athleticism of James. Wade is a ten-time All-Star, and he also won a gold medal in the Beijing Olympic games (2008).

Rick Chapman (born 1966)

Selenium-toned gelatin silver print, 2006 (printed 2007)

Gift of the artist and ESPN

NPG.2013.84.35

DCW
Jon Friedman’s sketch of former congressman Barney Frank is one of a series of studies made in preparation for the oil portrait commissioned by the U.S. House of Representatives. Rather than having a formal sitting, Friedman followed Frank around Washington and Boston to capture his dynamic engagement with his audience.

Frank began his political career by leaving a Harvard doctoral program in 1968 to work as Boston mayor Kevin White’s chief assistant. Soon after, Frank won a seat in the Massachusetts state legislature and introduced the state’s first two gay rights bills. Frank was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980. Apart from his sharp tongue and wit, he is famous for being the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as a gay man. Frank also cosponsored the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010, designed to reform the financial services industry.

Jon R. Friedman (born 1947)

Oil on paper, 2012

Gift of the artist

NPG.2013.120

CB/WWR
Maxine Singer’s achievements in science are newsworthy, but she has eluded the public eye. A pioneering molecular biologist, Singer has also been in the forefront of crafting ethical and safety guidelines for genetic engineering and is been a staunch public advocate for science. She began her career at the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases in 1958 and moved to the National Cancer Institute in 1974, where she was recognized for her research in recombinant DNA. She led the Carnegie Institution from 1988 to 2002, earning the National Medal of Science in 1992. Singer is renowned not only for her research but also for promoting science education in public schools and equal access for women and minorities in scientific fields.

Commissioned by the Carnegie Institution to make a painted portrait of Singer, artist Jon Friedman worked closely with her during the photo shoot. Capturing in this sketch the immediacy of a moment, he implies the impact of her intense focus.

Jon R. Friedman (born 1947)
Oil on gessoed paper, 2012
Gift of the artist
NPG.2013.11
Most cancers, in the opinion of virologist Harold Varmus, director of the National Cancer Institute since 2010, “will become chronic disorders that we take care of and sometimes cure.” Varmus has been thinking about the complexities of the disease for most of his career. In 1989 he and his research partner J. Michael Bishop won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their studies on the genetic basis of cancers and the role of viruses in their formation. Both as an award-winning scientist and as a high-level administrator—he also served as director of the National Institutes of Health and president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center—Varmus has mobilized global cooperation and advanced research on cancer and its potential cures. Jon Friedman’s oil sketch, a study for a Sloan-Kettering portrait commission, conveys Varmus’s informality as well as a direct and animated interaction with the viewer.

Jon R. Friedman (born 1947)
Oil and graphite on paper, 2010
Gift of the artist
NPG.2011.72

WWR/ CB
Marc Anthony  born 1968

*Born New York City*

Combining Latin rhythms, ballads, and mainstream pop music, Marc Anthony is one of today’s most significant crossover artists, selling more than twelve million albums worldwide. This photograph shows the singer, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, just as he hit his stride with his first salsa records, between 1993 and 1997. These established him as one of the all-time top-selling artists in the genre. The viewer looks at the singer, with his arms extended and head toward the sky, in a posture that conveys his natural and enduring stage presence. Anthony’s eponymous English album from 2000 went triple-platinum, heralding the beginning of a Latin pop explosion in the United States. Twenty years later, his success is undiminished; he won ten awards at the 2014 Billboard Latin Music Awards, including Hot Latin Song for his life-affirming “Vivir mi vida.”

ADÁL (born 1948)

Inkjet print, c. 1994

NPG.2014.55

TC
Robert Wilson  born 1941

Born Waco, Texas

A trailblazer in experimental theater, Robert Wilson has achieved worldwide fame for works such as King of Spain (1969); Einstein on the Beach (1976), in collaboration with avant-garde musical composer Philip Glass; and The Life and Death of Marina Abramović (2011). Beyond his professional endeavors, Wilson also manages the Watermill Center in Long Island, New York, an interdisciplinary laboratory for theater professionals and students. Wilson’s honors include the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for Lifetime Achievement (1996), the National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement (2001), and the Olivier Award for Best New Opera Production (2013). He was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2000).

Artist Chuck Close depicts Wilson using the woodburytype—a photomechanical printing process that results in a slight relief of the image. The close-up framing, elimination of background, and dramatic lighting allow us to engage Wilson eye to eye.

Chuck Close (born 1940)

Woodburytype, 2012

NPG.2015.25
Eva Longoria born 1975

*Born Corpus Christi, Texas*

Self-described “Texican” and award-winning actor Eva Longoria had her breakthrough in the role of Gabrielle Solis in the series *Desperate Housewives*, becoming the first pivotal and primetime Latina character in U.S. television. Longoria is a fixture on numerous “most beautiful” lists and a fashion icon. Her work beneath and beyond the national spotlight—as a philanthropist, social activist, and businesswoman—has garnered her equal, if not greater, acclaim than her onscreen work. Her casual but self-assured appearance in this portrait carries a quality of everydayness that celebrates female power. Longoria is the founder of Eva’s Heroes, an organization committed to enriching the lives of developmentally challenged youth; she has served as executive producer of the documentaries *The Harvest* and *Food Chains*, about farm work and social justice. In 2013 she received a master’s degree in Chicano studies from California State University, Northridge.

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders (born 1952)

Inkjet print, 2010

NPG.2015.29

TC
Sonia Sotomayor  born 1954

*Born the Bronx, New York*

This photograph of Sonia Sotomayor shows her smiling and amiable, yet cast in the no-nonsense persona she has cultivated. Since her 2009 confirmation to the Supreme Court, she has been one of the most visible members of the bench, becoming almost a popular icon. She has tossed the first pitch at a Yankees game, dropped the ball at Times Square on New Year’s Eve 2013, and drew large crowds during the tour for her best-selling memoir, *My Beloved World*. Her public appeal derives not just from her apparent accessibility but also from the power of her personal story as a child raised by her widowed mother in the housing projects of the Bronx. Through determination and discipline, Sotomayor earned degrees from Princeton University and Yale Law School. A self-described Nuyorican (“New York–Puerto Rican”), Sotomayor is the first Latina and third woman to serve on the country’s highest court.

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders (born 1952)

Inkjet print, 2010

NPG.2015.27
The chameleon-like John Leguizamo first won over audiences in 1991 as the star and writer of *Mambo Mouth*, where he portrayed seven different Latino characters to sold-out theaters off Broadway. The award-winning production has been followed by four other critically acclaimed one-person shows: *Spic-O-Rama* (1993), *Freak* (1998), *Sexaholic* (2001), and *Ghetto Klown* (2011). With his signature fast pace and raunchy humor, Leguizamo sources much of his stage material from his unlikely path—from a working-class family in Queens to Broadway and Hollywood. He has played myriad characters in film, including a lowlife criminal (*Carlito’s Way*, 1993), drag queen (*To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*, 1995), and Toulouse-Lautrec (*Moulin Rouge*, 2001), among others. In this portrait, we see a hint of histrionic mischief through his angled gaze at the audience.

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders (born 1952)

Inkjet print, 2011

NPG.2015.28
Brad Pitt  born 1963

Born Shawnee, Oklahoma

A familiar face on screen since the late 1980s, Brad Pitt won a Golden Globe Award for his role as a patient in the psychological thriller *Twelve Monkeys* (1995). Nominated for four Academy Awards, he served as a producer on *12 Years a Slave* (2013), which won a Best Picture Oscar.

-Colin Davidson’s portrait of Irish singer-songwriter Glen Hansard caught Pitt’s eye when he saw it reproduced on an album cover. On several occasions, the actor and artist met in London, Surrey, and Buckinghamshire, where they spent time together painting and talking. During these sessions, Davidson began a series of portraits of Pitt, including this one, made just before Pitt cut his hair short for the filming of *Fury* (2014). The glassy, introspective eyes are typical of Davidson’s noncommissioned portraits, as he seeks “a certain vulnerable quality.” He desires to capture his subjects “lost in thought,” removed from the celebrity persona that we normally see in the mass media.

Colin Davidson (born 1968)

Oil on canvas, 2013

Gift of the Lowry Wallace Collection, Ireland

NPG.2014.101

DM
Chef, author, local food pioneer, and sustainable agriculture advocate Alice Waters has long championed a culinary philosophy centered on the importance of preparing and serving only the freshest, in-season, organic products. Since its founding in 1971, her award-winning Chez Panisse Restaurant in Berkeley, California, has been at the forefront of a “delicious revolution” dedicated to challenging and changing the way that people think about food. The success of Waters’s farm-to-table campaign can be measured in part by the exponential increase in the number of restaurants, farmers’ markets, and mainstream grocery stores that now feature locally grown produce. Waters has also been the driving force behind the Edible Schoolyard movement, whose goal is to give students the opportunity to take an active part in all aspects of the food cycle—from cultivation to consumption.

Waters gazes into the distance in this photograph, which was taken in the Edible Schoolyard garden she established in Berkeley in 1998.
AMS
Michael J. Fox  born 1961

*Born Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

Emmy Award–winning actor and Parkinson’s research advocate Michael J. Fox endeared himself to legions of fans with his roles on the sitcoms *Family Ties* (1982–89) and *Spin City* (1996–2001), and as Marty McFly in the popular *Back to the Future* film trilogy (1985–90). Only thirty years old when he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease—a degenerative neurological disorder—he did not make his condition known to the public until 1998. Since then, Fox has continued his acting career, aided by drugs that help him manage his Parkinson’s symptoms. In 2000 he established the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research with the goals of finding a cure for the disease and supporting the development of improved therapies for those living with it. In this portrait, Fox’s steely gaze mirrors the determination of the man whose foundation has already generated more than $450 million to fund its ambitious research objectives.

Steve Pyke (born 1957)

Digital gelatin silver print, 2008

S/NPG.2010.23
EP 28

Sergey Brin  born 1973

*Born Moscow, Russia*

Larry Page  born 1973

*Born East Lansing, Michigan*

More than just a feat of software engineering, the Google search engine has been transformative for Internet users everywhere. Co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page met as doctoral students in computer science at Stanford University. After developing algorithms that could find information easily on the Web, they created Google in 1997. Currently, the company is expanding from its search engine roots into robots and wearable technology.

In this commissioned work, artist Luke DuBois wryly uses a search engine to create an innovative, born-digital portrait of the camera-shy engineers—a nod to how most of us find images today of celebrities, spotlight seekers, and the reticent alike. The lower screen shows clips of interviews with Brin and Page that were found using Google search. The lower screen contains the real-time search results of words that Brin and Page used during the interviews. Because the search results will constantly change in Google, so will the words displayed, making this a dynamic, generative work, and turning the sitters into their own technology—invisible yet ubiquitous.


Two-channel video with sound, 2013
Supported by a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and by the Marc Pachter Commissioning Fund

NPG.2013.80

AN
Maya Lin  born 1959

Born Athens, Ohio

As a student at Yale University, Maya Lin redefined the conventional notion of a heroic war monument with her understated and controversial design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Although still best known for the memorial, Lin is an internationally recognized artist and architect whose work includes large-scale installations such as Storm King Wavefield.

Artist Karin Sander’s diminutive 3-D scanned portrait reflects the architect’s sense of herself as a small part of a global environment. Like so many of Lin’s own designs, the unconventionality of this portrait invites the viewer to look more closely and see the sitter in a new way.

Karin Sander (born 1957)

3-D color scan of the living person, polychrome 3-D printing, black and white, scale 1:5, 2014

NPG.2015.15

EJ
César Pelli  born 1926

Born San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina

One of the most influential architects of the later twentieth century, César Pelli is also one of the first celebrity architects. He received a degree in architecture from the University of Tucumán, in Argentina, and then worked in the offices of Eero Saarinen. He combined a distinguished career as a practicing architect with serving as dean of the Yale School of Architecture from 1977 to 1984. He has received many awards for his eclectic, site-responsive designs, including the Aga Khan Award in 2004 for the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Pelli’s sleek and timeless portrait invites us to see the subject as cool and aloof. The artist, Philip Grausman, first met Pelli when they were both on the faculty at Yale. Grausman has written that his sculptures strive “for a timeless image of the subject by revealing not the specific nuances . . . but the underlying geometries and essential form of the subject’s head.”

Philip Grausman (born 1935)

Stainless steel, 2014 cast from 2011 original

Gift of the artist

NPG.2014.107
Bernard Hopkins  born 1965

*Born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

In 2011, at age forty-six, Bernard Hopkins claimed the *Ring*’s light-heavyweight title, becoming the oldest professional boxer in history to win a world championship. Hopkins’s early years were troubled ones, however. He amassed a lengthy criminal record as a youth and was just seventeen when he began serving an eighteen-year prison sentence in 1982. By the time he was paroled in 1988, Hopkins was determined to turn his life around. He converted to Islam, swore off alcohol and drugs, and turned his focus to boxing. After losing his first professional bout, Hopkins rebounded with twenty-one consecutive victories and adopted the nickname “Executioner”—the persona he projects in this portrait. He took the International Boxing Federation’s middleweight title in 1995 and defended it successfully for a record-setting ten years. Moving up to the light-heavyweight class in 2006, Hopkins consistently dominated that division until November 2014, when he was dethroned at the age of forty-nine.

Holger Keifel (born 1962)

Inkjet print, 2003 (printed 2013)

Acquired through the generosity of Golden Boy Promotions

NPG.2014.16

AMS
Daniel Dae Kim  born 1968

*Born Pusan, South Korea*

One of the most prominent Asian American television actors, Daniel Dae Kim immigrated to the United States from South Korea as a young child. He earned a theater degree from Haverford College, which led him to pursue a career as a stage actor in New York City before returning to school. He graduated with an MFA from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts in 1989. He then branched into film and television work, gaining notoriety for his role as Jin Kwon on the cult hit show *Lost* (2004–10). At the outset of the show, Kim’s character only spoke Korean. Over the course of several seasons, however, the character began to learn English, requiring Kim to act in both his native and adopted languages, which, he says, greatly improved his Korean. Currently he can be seen on the CBS drama *Hawaii 5-0*.

Here, Kim poses as photographer CYJO frequently represents her subjects, facing the viewer with a direct, unadorned stare.

**CYJO (born 1974)**

Pigment print, 2007 (printed 2014)

C/NPG.2015.32
Dana Tai Soon Burgess  born 1968

*Born Carmel, California*

Dana Tai Soon Burgess grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the son of an Irish American father and a Korean American mother. Throughout his career he has explored this “hyphenated” cultural status in much of his dance and choreography. Burgess’s life as a dancer began at age sixteen, and he went on to earn degrees in dance from the University of New Mexico and George Washington University (GWU). He founded the Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company in 1992 as a way of fusing Eastern and Western influences in his training, and has recruited dancers who possess similarly diverse backgrounds. His experience with varied forms of movement, such as contemporary dance, ballet, and martial arts, is reflected in works such as “Hyphen” and “Becoming American,” which explore questions of identity and belonging. Burgess also serves as the chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at GWU and as a State Department cultural ambassador.

**CYJO (born 1974)**

Pigment print, 2007 (printed 2014)

Acquired through the generosity of Ms. Gie Kim and Mr. Rich Chang

C/NPG.2015.30

**SI**
A Korean American novelist and professor of English at Princeton University, Chang-rae Lee immigrated to the United States with his family when he was three years old. Language interested him from an early age; he often translated for his Korean-speaking mother. He was inspired by his father, a doctor, who upon their arrival in the United States decided to specialize in psychiatry, a profession requiring excellent English. Lee himself earned a BA in English from Yale and an MFA from the University of Oregon. He began to teach writing while working on his first novel, *Native Speaker*, published in 1995. The protagonist, a young Korean American man, deals with issues of cultural identity, assimilation, and displacement. Although many of his five novels have dealt with Korean culture, Lee is quick to note that his books are not autobiographical. His 2014 novel, *On Such a Full Sea*, takes place in a dystopian America.
EP35

(Pop) Icon: Britney

Britney Spears  born 1981

Born McComb, Mississippi

Luke DuBois’s portrait of Britney Spears plays on the traditional meaning of an icon as an object of veneration in religious art. In a gilt frame normally surrounding an image of the Virgin Mary is a collage of moving images culled from Spears’s music videos. Spears became a teen sensation with her first album, Baby One More Time (1999), going on to shatter multiple sales records and win more than seventy music awards. DuBois considers Spears, the subject of both public adoration and ridicule, the perfect candidate for a contemporary digital pop icon. The work shows her many carefully choreographed faces, using a computational process that locks her eyes in place while the video pans from one image to the next. The effect of blurring the images both dulls and intensifies her celebrity allure. Instead of her music, DuBois has substituted the reverberations of an Italian basilica known for its devotional iconography. Spears’s pop icon status remains intact: she is currently performing in Las Vegas for a two-year residency.


Digital video, screen with video player, custom wood frame, speakers, 2010

Run time: 60 minutes

Purchased through the Marc Pachter Acquisitions Fund

NPG.2015.19
Spike Lee is an innovative and provocative filmmaker with no qualms about confronting hot-button issues of race and class in his feature films and documentaries. In 1986 he scored an indie hit with his first full-length motion picture, *She’s Gotta Have It*. Written, directed, and produced by Lee (who also played one of its characters), the film was shot in under two weeks on a budget of $175,000 and earned more than $7 million at the box office. Lee has since brought varied projects to the screen, including *Do the Right Thing* (1989), *Malcolm X* (1992), and *Bamboozled* (2000). His probing documentaries include *4 Little Girls* (1997), an examination of the 1963 bombing of Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church, and *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts* (2006), a study of Hurricane Katrina’s devastating impact on New Orleans. Seen here with his camera at the ready, Lee shades his eyes while returning our gaze.

Jesse Frohman (born 1958)

Inkjet print, c. 1990 (printed 2014)

Gift of the artist

NPG.2015.6

AMS
Audra McDonald has captivated Broadway audiences since 1994 when, at the age of twenty-three, she made her Tony Award–winning debut as Carrie Pipperidge in a critically acclaimed revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Carousel*. Following that auspicious beginning, the Julliard-trained singer and actress has gone from strength to strength, collecting Tonys for her work in *Master Class* (1996), *Ragtime* (1998), *A Raisin in the Sun* (2004), and *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* (2012). In 2014 she earned a record-setting sixth Tony for her tour-de-force performance as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill*. With a repertoire ranging from jazz standards to opera, McDonald has achieved success beyond Broadway as a concert and recording artist. She delights in championing contemporary composers and has succeeded bringing their work to a wider audience. This dynamic portrait captures the energy and focus that McDonald brings to her performances.

Jesse Frohman (born 1958)
Inkjet print, 1999 (printed 2014)
Gift of the artist
NPG.2015.5

AMS
Peter Dinklage was born in 1969 in Morristown, New Jersey.

Peter Dinklage has been acting since high school, where he became involved in theater as a way to find his own community. He was born with achondroplasia, a genetic condition causing dwarfism, which made being accepted in school difficult at times. As a young actor, Dinklage struggled to find work beyond stage and independent film roles until a friend crafted a part specifically for him in *The Station Agent* (2003). The film won an audience award at the Sundance Film Festival and brought Dinklage greater recognition. His role in the HBO series *Game of Thrones* has made him a household name and earned him both Emmy and Golden Globe awards. Dinklage accepts roles referencing his height if he feels they are not exploitative but prefers to compete for parts never intended for someone his size. This philosophy is reflected in this image, where his direct, open gaze challenges the viewer to acknowledge but look past his condition.

Jesse Frohman (born 1958)

Archival pigment print, 2003 (printed 2014)

Gift of the artist

C/NPG.2015.7
Floyd Mayweather Jr. born 1977

*Born Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Widely regarded as one of the best boxers in the sport today, Floyd Mayweather Jr. has amassed an impressive record of victories since joining pro boxing’s ranks in 1996—the same year he won a bronze medal at the Olympics in Atlanta. He began his professional career as a super featherweight and won his first world championship in 1998 at 130 pounds. Working his way up through the weight divisions, Mayweather has captured world titles in five different weight classes and now boxes in the welterweight category. His legendary dominance has made him one of boxing’s premier draws, and he regularly tops the list of the world’s highest-paid athletes. Beyond the ring, however, Mayweather has a tarnished reputation. Charged with domestic violence on several occasions, he has received punishments ranging from community service to jail time but has never faced sanctions from his sport. In this image Mayweather’s gaze conveys a wary defiance.

Holger Keifel (born 1962)

Inkjet print, 2005 (printed 2013)

Acquired through the generosity of Golden Boy Promotions

NPG.2014.17

AMS
Still a major entertainment figure, Barbra Streisand was just twenty-two when she took Broadway by storm in the hit musical *Funny Girl* (1964). She became one of the industry’s brightest and most versatile stars, excelling in music, theater, movies, and television. As a singer, Streisand rose to the top of the charts in the mid-1960s with multiple Grammys, and she is one of the best-selling recording artists of all time. Streisand’s motion picture debut in *Funny Girl* (1968) earned her the Academy Award for Best Actress. She continued her on-screen career in such films as *Hello, Dolly* (1969), *The Way We Were* (1973), and *A Star is Born* (1976) before branching into producing and directing. In this consciously crafted comment on celebrity, Deb Kass celebrates Streisand’s solid gold accomplishments using an image from *Funny Girl*, in which the actress played Fanny Brice, another boundary-breaking female entertainer.

Deborah Kass (born 1952)

Screenprint, 2013

NPG.2014.31

WWR
Deborah Kass born 1952

*Born San Antonio, Texas*

Deb Kass has been one of the most consistently innovative and productive artists of the post-Pop era. Early in her career, Kass, following Andy Warhol, became interested in appropriation: adapting and changing other works of art to elaborate on—and change—the art historical tradition. In *Yellow Deb*, *Red Deb*, *Silver Deb*, and *Blue Deb*, she models her self-portrait on Warhol’s screenprints of celebrities surrounded by resplendently colored backgrounds. While in some respects the self-portraits closely imitate Warhol’s 1964 print of Elizabeth Taylor, Kass’s subtle shifts change the meaning to reflect her own themes: her gender, Jewishness, and sexuality. In repurposing Warhol’s style, she challenges the male-dominated art world; in choosing Taylor, she plays on the actress’s WASP background and conversion to Judaism; and in borrowing the heavy makeup, she implies an ironic, hypergirlish reference to her lesbianism.

Self-portraits

Screenprints, 2012

Acquired through the Abraham and Virginia Weiss Charitable Trust, Amy and Marc Meadows C/NPG.2013.75.2, C/NPG.2013.75.1, C/NPG.2013.75.3, C/NPG.2013.75.4
WWR
Kelly Slater  born 1972  

*Born Cocoa Beach, Florida*

Surfer Kelly Slater is one of America’s greatest athletes, still going strong as a championship competitor at age forty-two. He has won the world surfing championship a record eleven times—including five times in a row (1994–98) and as both the youngest (twenty) and oldest (thirty-nine) participant. He has also won more individual surfing competitions—fifty-four—than any man in history. Slater is known for his dynamic, hard-charging style on the waves and for his affable, accessible personality when on shore. He is involved in environmental causes and has had a small career appearing in television shows (such as *Baywatch*) and movies. In September 2014 he launched his own brand of surfing equipment and apparel.

Todd Glaser (born 1985)  

Inkjet print, 2011 (printed 2013)  

Gift of Henry L. Thaggert III in memory of Durnell P. Thaggert  

NPG.2014.75  

DCW
EP46

*When Ends Meet—Oprah Winfrey*

Oprah Winfrey born 1954

*Born Kosciusko, Mississippi*

Artist Mickalene Thomas created a double portrait of Oprah Winfrey and Condoleeza Rice to emphasize how both African American women overcame obstacles throughout their lives. For Winfrey, she uses her characteristic rhinestones to highlight the multimedia mogul’s megawatt smile and verve. Winfrey’s confident gaze telegraphs her knack for connecting with others, be they celebrities or ordinary citizens.

Winfrey catapulted to fame in 1986 with her self-named talk show, a daily telecast that ran for twenty-five years, winning multiple awards. Building on the devotion of viewers everywhere, she turned to recommending books, promoting self-help, and creating HARPO studios, a magazine, and a television network. Born to an impoverished single mother, Winfrey has become an influential media leader and philanthropist. She has also given acclaimed performances in *The Color Purple* (1985) and *Lee Daniels’ The Butler* (2013). Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013, Winfrey recently produced *Selma*, a movie about the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Mickalene Thomas (born 1971)

Screenprint with hand-applied rhinestones on four-ply board, 2007–8

NPG.2013.13.1
Condoleezza Rice began her political career as National Security Advisor in 2001 for George W. Bush’s first administration. When Bush was reelected, Rice was appointed the secretary of state, the first African American woman in the position. With a doctorate in political science, specializing in Russia, Rice was an integral voice in Washington and abroad on global geopolitics. Artist Mickalene Thomas created this work as a pendant to her Oprah Winfrey portrait—a powerful pairing of two accomplished African American women. Thomas depicts Rice as a focused, determined thinker, the subtle, hard gleam of the rhinestones suggesting the intensity of her sitter. After her distinguished career in the government, Rice has returned to Stanford University—she was previously a professor and then provost there—to teach political science and serve as a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. She remains vocal in the Republican Party, endorsing political candidates and commenting on matters of national security.

Mickalene Thomas (born 1971)

Screenprint with hand-applied rhinestones on four-ply board, 2007–8

NPG.2013.13.2
Playfully titling this screenprint of the nation’s first African American first lady *Michelle O*, Mickalene Thomas creates an implicit comparison between Michelle Obama’s youthful, fashion-forward glamour and that of Jacqueline Kennedy. In addition to the extraordinary support she has lent to her husband’s political career, Michelle Obama—here depicted as personable, confident, and forthright—is herself a Harvard-trained lawyer. Prior to her husband’s election, she demonstrated her own impressive legal and administrative skills, building an influential career in Chicago devoted largely to stimulating and supporting public service. As first lady, Obama has continued to stress the importance of social issues and has put special focus on the challenge of eradicating childhood obesity through healthy eating and exercise. In her husband’s second term, she has launched new initiatives to urge Americans to continue their education beyond high school and to support service members, veterans, and their families.

Mickalene Thomas (born 1971)

Screenprint, 2008

Gift of Kenneth I. Schaner

NPG.2010.56

WWR
Esperanza Spalding  born 1984

Born Portland, Oregon

Bo Gehring’s portraits are a visual and aural record of his subjects, who are seen lying flat and responding to a musical work of their own selection while a camera moves slowly overhead. The computer-controlled camera’s motion is synchronized exactly to the subject’s height and the duration of the music. Unlike Gehring’s previous portraits, the sitter here is a celebrity: the record-breaking bassist, composer, and singer Esperanza Spalding. Spalding won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist of 2011, a first for a jazz musician.

For her portrait’s musical component, Spalding chose “Tarde” (1974) by Wayne Shorter—an artist who greatly influenced Spalding—which includes Shorter on the tenor saxophone and Herbie Hancock on the electric piano. As the camera scans Spalding’s body, we see the shimmer and textures of her carefully selected clothing and jewelry, and at the end, a face enraptured by the music—a rare glimpse of a star enjoying a private moment.

Bo Gehring (born 1941)

Digital video, 2014

Acquired through the Marc Pachter Commissioning Fund as part of the first prize, Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2013

NPG.2014.83
Louise Erdrich born 1954

*Born Little Falls, Minnesota*

Louise Erdrich originally came to public notice with her first novel, *Love Medicine* (1984), which won the National Book Critic’s Circle Award, and followed that with a second success, *The Beet Queen* (1986). Erdrich is from Minnesota, and her ethnic background includes the Ojibway and Chippewa tribes; she is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of the Chippewa. Many of her works explore the psychology and world of Native Americans, but her work cannot be confined to a particular ethnic identity. Nonetheless, she is considered a major voice in the American Indian renaissance. She has published fourteen books, as well as short stories, poems, and children’s stories. In November 2012 she won the National Book Award for her novel *The Round House*.

Alec Soth (born 1969)

Archival pigment print, 2012

NPG.2014.24

DCW
California native John Baldessari is a leading conceptual artist and dedicated educator, teaching art for more than thirty years in all levels of the California school system. After famously cremating his early paintings in the 1970s, Baldessari expanded his work from painting to other mediums, most notably photographs and film. Using found images from old Hollywood movies or filming language games and chance experiments (such as throwing a ball), he emphasizes the randomness of the creative process.

This large work by Alphonse van Woerkom uses detailed crosshatching to wonderful effect, particularly for the artist’s skin and hair. He also captures the essence of Baldessari’s stature (six foot, seven inches) by allowing the forms to swell to the edges of the paper. In 2013, the California Institute of the Arts opened the John Baldessari Art Studio Building, acknowledging the artist’s generosity and his love of teaching.

Alphonse van Woerkom (born 1943)

Charcoal, conté crayon, and pastel on paper, 2009

Gift of Ellen Sragow, Ltd.

NPG.2012.56
Katy Perry  born 1984

Born Santa Barbara, California

Pop star Katy Perry (born Katheryn Hudson) collaborated with New York City–based painter Will Cotton on the design of the world featured in her video for “California Gurls.” Cotton’s work, which draws on art-historical sources to explore consumer culture, caught Perry’s eye. The artist felt an affinity for Perry as well, describing her as just the kind of subject he wanted to paint: “She’s over-the-top, she’s very sugary, saccharine.” Here Cotton presents her as “Queen Katy of Candyland” in a dress constructed by designer Cynthia Rowley. Perry’s cheeky pose, wry expression, and her flawless appearance, amplified by the velvet quality of the painted surface, playfully hint at the paradoxes she straddles. Crafty and self-aware, she acknowledges that “everything I do is always with a wink.” The provocative teenage icon, chart-topping singer, and savvy businesswoman began her career singing gospel music as the daughter of Pentecostal pastors. She is the only artist after Michael Jackson to produce five number-one hits from a single album, in this case Teenage Dream (2010).

Will Cotton (born 1965)

Oil on linen, 2010

Promised gift of the James Dicke Family

L/NPG.8.2014

DM
Cosmogony of Desire

Diane von Fürstenberg born 1946

Born Brussels, Belgium

Forty years ago, Diane Von Fürstenberg designed the iconic wrap dress that continues to captivate women from Madonna to Michelle Obama, Beyoncé to Kate Middleton. With its zipperless, buttonless construction, the dress allows its liberated wearer to move comfortably from home to the workplace to the evening and still look powerful, polished, and feminine. Von Fürstenberg says, “It’s the dress that . . . paid my bills, gave me my fame, and allowed me to be free.” Born in Belgium to Jewish parents, Von Fürstenberg credits her mother, a former prisoner in the Auschwitz concentration camp, for teaching her that “fear is not an option.”

Von Fürstenberg and artist Anh Duong share a bond as feminists. Duong began the portrait by painting one eye on the canvas and then worked the rest of the body around it. Von Fürstenberg noticed that in that one eye, “she completely and totally captured me.”

Anh Duong (born 1960)

Oil on canvas, 2001

Gift of Diane von Fürstenberg

NPG.2015.3

DM
Sandra Cisneros is the most prominent Latina voice in American literature. She drew upon her experience as the daughter of a working-class Mexican American family in Chicago in her first published work, *The House on Mango Street* (1984), which earned her the coveted American Book Award (1985) and became required reading in public schools and universities across the country. Cisneros was the first Latina to become a MacArthur Fellow (1995), and in 2002 the *New York Times* and other national newspapers selected her novel *Caramelo* as a notable book of the year. Cisneros projects herself in different ways in her many existing portraits, as if alluding to her free mind as a writer—wearing pink wigs or animal print coats, or with her Virgin of Guadalupe tattoo exposed. Here we see her with her dog on the porch of her former residence in San Antonio, smiling at the viewer and wearing native Mexican attire.

Al Rendon (born 1957)

Inkjet print, 1998 (printed 2014)

Acquisition made possible through the support of the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center

NPG.2015.36