



FIGURE IT OUT!

Figurative art and portraiture play a leading role in twenty-first-century contemporary art.

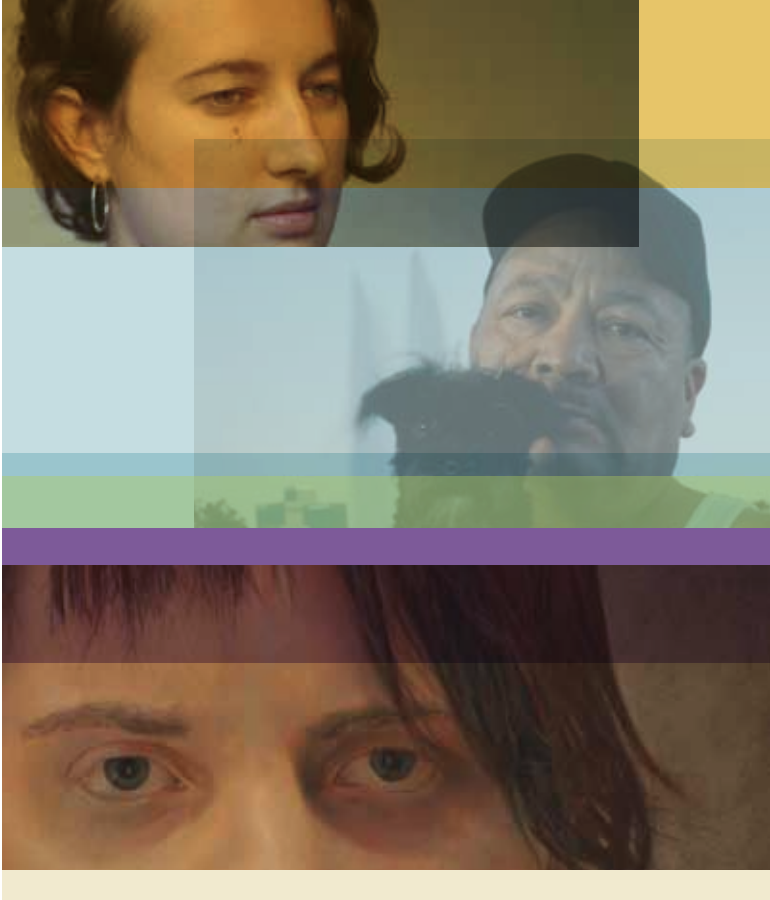
A portrait can communicate much more than likeness. Is it a miniature love token? A window to the soul? A captured moment? A negation of personality? And what mediums do artists use? Pointillist painting? Plasticized sculpture? Pastel drawings? Pixilations? Images based on individual DNA? Generative video? The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery is inviting artists all over America to figure out portraiture today.

OUTWIN BOOCHEVER PORTRAIT COMPETITION CALL FOR ENTRIES 2013



Smithsonian
Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture
National Portrait Gallery

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OUTWIN BOOCHEVER PORTRAIT COMPETITION 2013

OPEN TO ALL VISUAL ARTS MEDIA
Call for entries, September 1–October 31, 2011

portraitcompetition.si.edu

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National Portrait Gallery



FIGURE IT OUT!

The National Portrait Gallery invites artists to figure out the contemporary art of the portrait for the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2013. The competition and resulting exhibition will celebrate excellence and innovation, with a strong focus on the variety of portrait mediums used by artists today. The National Portrait Gallery welcomes single figures, groups, or self-portraits—from classical drawing and painting or hyperrealistic sculpture, to large-scale photography, to prints and new media. The competition is named for Virginia Outwin Boochever (1920–2005), a former Portrait Gallery volunteer whose generous gift has endowed this program.

WHO MAY ENTER? AND WHAT?

The competition is open to all professional artists age 18 and over who are living and working in the United States and its territories. Both emerging and midcareer artists are invited to participate. Each artist may enter one work depicting anyone—a friend, a stranger, a relative, yourself—but it must be the result of the artist's direct encounter with that person. While the human form must be the focus of the work, artists are invited to interpret the concept of portraiture broadly; for example, an entry might not include a face. The work must have been completed after January 1, 2010.

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

The winner of the competition will receive a cash award of \$25,000 and will be awarded a separate commission to portray a remarkable living American for the Portrait

Gallery's collection. The winning artist and the Portrait Gallery will collaborate to select the subject for the commissioned portrait. The second-prize winner will receive \$7,500, and the third-prize winner will receive \$5,000. Up to four additional artists may be commended for their work, and they will receive \$1,000 each. The winner of the People's Choice Award will receive \$500. All finalists' works will form a major exhibition on view at the National Portrait Gallery from March 22, 2013, to January 4, 2014.

HOW DO I ENTER?

- Entries will only be accepted electronically, through the National Portrait Gallery's website, portraitcompetition.si.edu, from September 1 until October 31, 2011.
- Entry to the competition—and submission of JPEG images—is available online for a nonrefundable registration fee of \$35. Artists who wish to submit time-based media (video, film, digital animation) will find instructions for entry on the competition website.
- Artists may submit a statement about their work, their particular entry, and/or the circumstances of the creation of the portrait. Dimensions and medium information will also be requested.
- The first round of jurying will be done online. Judges will identify the semifinalists, whose works will be transported to and from Washington, D.C., at the Portrait Gallery's expense.
- The final selection of winners and other exhibitors will be made from those original semifinalist portraits.



- The public will have an opportunity to vote for its favorite work among the finalists through the People's Choice Award.
- Detailed rules for the competition, as well as instructions for submitting entries and completing the entry form, are available at portraitcompetition.si.edu.

The Jurors

Martin E. Sullivan, *Director, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.*

Brandon Brame Fortune, *Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, National Portrait Gallery*

Peter Frank, *Writer, Curator, and Critic, Los Angeles, California*

Hung Liu, *Artist and Professor, Mills College, Oakland, California*

Richard J. Powell, *John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art & Art History and Professor of African/African American Studies, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina*

Alec Soth, *Artist, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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