National Portrait Gallery
2007-2008 Exhibition Schedule

Calendar editors, please note:
All exhibitions are held at the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, located at Eighth and F streets N.W., Washington, D.C. For public information, call (202) 633-1000 or visit www.npg.si.edu. The National Portrait Gallery is open every day from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Dec. 25. Dates and exhibitions are subject to change and must be confirmed prior to publication.

Upcoming Temporary Exhibitions

“Legacy: Spain and the United States in the Age of Independence, 1763-1848”
Sept. 27 through Feb. 10, 2008
Through portraits and compelling authentic documents, this exhibition explores Spain’s key role in the Revolutionary War and the founding of the United States. The exhibition begins in 1763 when the Treaty of Paris was signed and continues through 1848 when the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed which ended the Mexican American War. The political and geographic changes that happened during the 85-year period covered by this exhibition still reverberate in American culture today. Individuals represented in the exhibition include King Carlos III by Anton Raphael Mengs, the Count of Floridablanca by Folch de Cardona, George Washington by Charles Willson Peale, Benjamin Franklin by Joseph Siffred Duplessis, and even Davy Crockett by Chester Harding. This exhibition is presented by the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Latino Center with the Sociedad Estatal para la Acción Cultural Exterior (SEACEX) and the Fundación Consejo España (EE. UU). This exhibition is accompanied by a catalog that will be available in the museum bookstore.

“Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits”
Oct. 19 through March 2, 2008
This exhibition of photographic portraits of African Americans draws its name from the words of abolitionist and clergyman Henry Highland Garnet, who advocated action when speaking to a gathering of free blacks in 1843: “Strike for your lives and liberties. …Let your motto be Resistance! Resistance! RESISTANCE!...” The photographs, from the National Portrait Gallery’s collection, illuminate the variety of ways that African Americans resisted and redefined America that needed but rarely accepted its black citizens. Subjects in this show come from many sectors of the African
American community, and range from Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Edmonia Lewis, to W.E.B. Dubois, Lorraine Hansberry, and Winton Marsalis. Among the photographers represented in the exhibition are: Mathew Brady, Berenice Abbott, James VanderZee, Doris Ulmann, Edward Weston, Gordon Parks, Irving Penn, and Carl Van Vechten. The Smithsonian’s new National Museum of African American History and Culture collaborated with the National Portrait Gallery for its inaugural exhibition. Guest curator and photo-historian, Deborah Willis, selected the images from the National Portrait Gallery’s extensive photography collection. This exhibition is accompanied by a catalog that will be available in the museum bookstore.

“One Life: Katharine Hepburn”
Nov. 2 through Oct. 5, 2008
The National Portrait Gallery’s One Life gallery will be dedicated to Katharine Hepburn. Born May 12, 1907, Hepburn was a 20th-century icon who carefully constructed and maintained her own myth from her earliest days in the studio system through more than 50 years on stage, screen and television. The exhibition includes her four Oscar statues—the most won by anyone for best actress; images from her life and career; a video kiosk that will play clips from a selection of her films, interviews and television plays.

“Recognize! Hip-Hop and Contemporary Portraiture”
Feb. 8, 2008 through Sept. 1, 2008
Since its inception in the 1970s, hip-hop has been arguably the most influential and popular musical form in America. Its popularity extends beyond the urban centers where it was born and pervades youth culture throughout the world. Images of hip-hop stars are as pervasive as the music itself, and the National Portrait Gallery is featuring the work of artists who have explored this phenomenon. David Scheinbaum has been photographing hip-hop artists since 2000 both in concert and off stage including such celebrated groups as Public Enemy, Blackalicious, Phar Cyde, De La Soul, and Jurassic-5. Kehinde Wiley, best known for his large, colorful paintings of anonymous young black men, has created portraits of hip-hop artists such as L.L. Cool J and Ice T, each based on a famous European or American painting from the 17th through 19th centuries. Nikki Giovanni, will write a poem that will be transcribed onto walls in the exhibition by artist Shinique Smith. The poem will be published in the catalog as well. Two Washington D.C.-based graffiti artists are creating four “portrait” murals to be installed in a hallway that connects the galleries. Jefferson Pinder created three video self portraits that will be included in the installation. This exhibition is accompanied by a catalog that will be available in the museum bookstore.

Current Temporary Exhibitions

“Great Britons: Treasures from the National Portrait Gallery, London”
Open through Sept. 3, 2007
The National Portrait Gallery presents an exhibition of treasures from the National Portrait Gallery, London. By bringing to America 60 of the finest painted portraits and photographs of the most significant British figures of the past 500 years, this exhibition demonstrates the common histories of the two countries. The presentation will feature such influential figures as monarchs Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II; individuals who created political change from Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell to Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher and inventors from Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.
In addition, the exhibition highlights the work of outstanding portrait painters Sir Anthony van Dyck, Peter Paul Rubens, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir John Everitt Millais and Walter Sickert. Photographic and digital works include Benjamin Howlett’s image of the engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Sam Taylor Wood’s recent digital video portrait of footballer David Beckham. Accompanied by a catalog available in the museum bookstore.

“Harry Benson: Being There”  
Open through Sept. 3, 2007  
The Scottish National Portrait Gallery is mounting an exhibition of New York-based, Scotland-born photographer Harry Benson. There are 100 photographs representing his work, spanning from the era of the Beatles to 9/11. The exhibition highlights the renowned photojournalist’s knack for being in the right place at the right time—a skill that has served him well for the past 50 years. Benson, who has photographed every U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower, was just feet away from Bobby Kennedy the night he was shot and was in the room with President Richard Nixon when he resigned. He was next to Coretta Scott King at her husband’s funeral and on site shortly after the second of the Twin Towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001.

“Royal Portraits of Celebration by Alexander Talbot Rice”  
Open through Sept. 3, 2007  
This small exhibition is of a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, painted to celebrate the Golden Jubilee in 2005 and lent by the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers. This and a companion portrait of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, lent by St. George’s House at Windsor Castle, are painted by Alexander Talbot Rice, one of the youngest artists to be commissioned for a modern royal portrait.

“Portraiture Now: Framing Memory”  
Through Jan. 6, 2008  
“Framing Memory,” the second exhibition in the ongoing “Portraiture Now” series, highlights contemporary art that incorporates portraits of iconic figures as a means to explore history and culture. It features five artists—Alfredo Arregui, Brett Cook, Kerry James Marshall, Tina Mion and Faith Ringgold—each of whom creates remembered likenesses of significant personalities to make broader explorations of identity, both personal and public. Portraits of such emblematic figures as Martin Luther King Jr., Frida Kahlo, Jacqueline Kennedy, César Chávez and Josephine Baker serve as evocative triggers of memory for both artist and audience. In paintings, sculptural wall installations, quilts and other media, these varied artists use portraiture to confront cultural norms and practices and remind viewers of the individual’s role in their collective history.

“New Arrivals”  
Open through March 16, 2008  
“New Arrivals” displays newly acquired paintings, drawings, sculptures, posters, prints and photographs in the National Portrait Gallery collection, featuring subjects including Louis Armstrong, Jefferson Airplane, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, James Brown, Susan Sontag and Lenny Bruce. The presented works offer an opportunity to explore some of the most recent additions to the National Portrait Gallery’s ever-growing collection.
Permanent Exhibitions

“America’s Presidents”
The nation’s only complete collection of presidential portraits outside the White House, this exhibition lies at the heart of the Portrait Gallery’s mission to tell the American story through the individuals who have shaped it. Visitors may see an enhanced and extended display of multiple images of 42 presidents of the United States, including Gilbert Stuart’s “Lansdowne” portrait of George Washington, the famous “cracked plate” photograph of Abraham Lincoln and whimsical sculptures of Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon and George H. W. Bush by noted caricaturist Pat Oliphant. Presidents Washington, Andrew Jackson, Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt have been given expanded attention because of their significant impact on the office.

“American Origins, 1600-1900”
A “conversation about America” is on view in a series of 17 galleries and alcoves chronologically arranged to take the visitor from the days of contact between Native Americans and European explorers through the struggles of independence to the Gilded Age. Major figures from Pocahontas to Chief Joseph, Alexander Hamilton to Henry Clay, and Nathaniel Hawthorne to Harriet Beecher Stowe are among those included.

Three of the galleries are devoted exclusively to the Civil War, examining this conflict in depth. A group of modern photographic prints produced from Mathew Brady’s original negatives complements the exhibition. Highlights from the Gallery’s remarkable collection of daguerreotypes, the earliest practical form of photography, are on view in “American Origins,” making the National Portrait Gallery the first major museum to create a permanent exhibition space for daguerreotype portraits.

“Jo Davidson: Biographer in Bronze”
Fourteen portraits in bronze and terra-cotta made by renowned American sculptor Jo Davidson between 1908 and 1946 include depictions of Gertrude Stein, Franklin D. Roosevelt, artist John Marin and Lincoln Steffens.

“Twentieth-Century Americans”
Four newly created galleries opening onto the museum’s magnificent third-floor Great Hall showcase the major cultural, scientific and political figures of the 20th century. From the reform movements of the first two decades to the movements for social justice and civil rights of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and from the Great Depression to the Vietnam era and beyond, visitors can explore the never-ending struggle to attain the American goal of justice for all.

“BRAVO!” and “Champions”
Two additional exhibitions feature particular themes in American life. “BRAVO!” showcases individuals who have brought the performing arts to life, beginning with P.T. Barnum, who raised the curtain on modern entertainment in the late-19th century and continuing through the present.
“Champions” salutes the dynamic American sports figures whose impact has extended beyond the athletic realm and made them a part of the larger story of the nation. A lively combination of portraits, artifacts, memorabilia and videos enhances both exhibitions.
The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery was established by an Act of Congress in 1962 and opened to the public in 1968. It is the only museum of its kind in the United States to combine the aspects of American history, biography and art. It is located at Eighth and F streets N.W., Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). www.npg.si.edu.

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