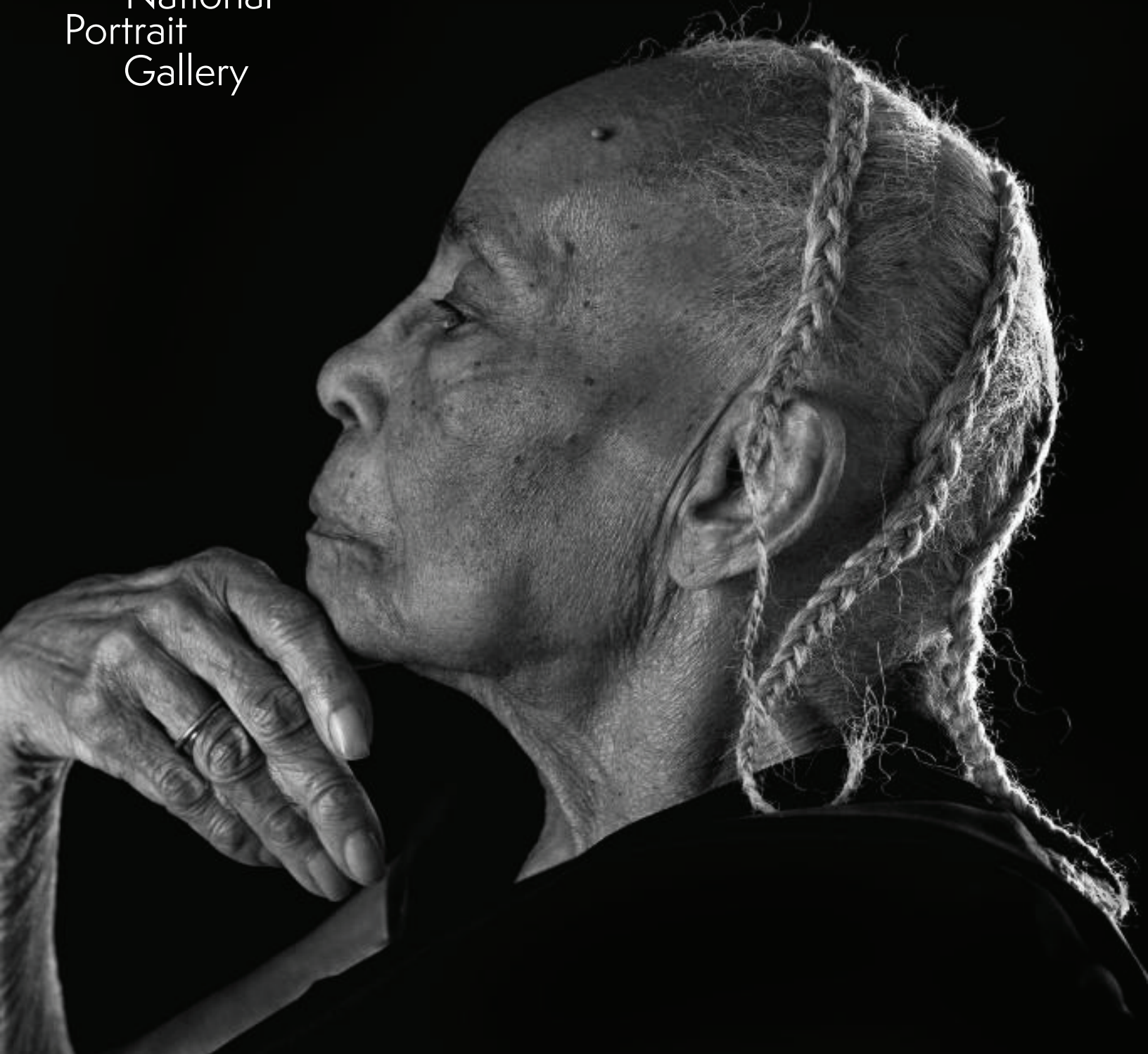


National  
Portrait  
Gallery



I DREAM A WORLD  
BY BRIAN LANKER

JULY 8, 2022 - AUGUST 27, 2023

The portfolio of 75 photographs  
includes portraits of the following:

Rosa Parks	Oprah Winfrey	Rachel Robinson
Janet Collins	Sonia Sanchez	Gloria Dean Randle Scott
Eva Jessye	Georgia Montgomery Davis Powers	Marian Wright Edelman
Bertha Knox Gilkey	Daisy Bates	Elizabeth Catlett
Alice Walker	Marva Nettles Collins	Jackie Torrence
Cicely Tyson	Lena Horne	Autherine Lucy
Katherine Dunham	Willie Mae Ford Smith	Alexa Canady
Barbara Jordan	Coretta Scott King	Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Toni Morrison	Jewell Jackson McCabe	Dorothy Irene Height
Althea T.L. Simmons	Mary Frances Berry	Sarah Vaughan
Maxine Waters	Ruby Middleton Forsythe	Josephine Riley Matthews
Johnnetta Betsch Cole	Jean Blackwell Hutson	Niara Sudarkasa
Norma Merrick Sklarek	Anna Arnold Hedgeman	Wilma Rudolph
Gwendolyn Brooks	Johnnie Tillmon	Odetta
Leontyne Price	Myrlie Evers	Cora Lee Johnson
Althea Gibson	Faye Wattleton	Eleanor Holmes Norton
Ernestine Anderson	Angela Yvonne Davis	Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell
Unita Blackwell	Betty Shabazz	Sherian Grace Cadoria
Jewel Plummer Cobb	Queen Mother Audley Moore	Priscilla L. Williams
Clara McBride Hale	Harriet Elizabeth Byrd	Leah Chase
Ellen Stewart	Shirley Chisholm	Elizabeth Cotten
Beah Richards	Wyomia Tyus	Marian Anderson
Carrie Saxon Perry	Ruby Dee	Winson and Dovie Hudson
Charlayne Hunter-Gault	Leontine T.C. Kelly	Maya Angelou
Constance Baker Motley	Margaret Walker Alexander	Septima Poinsette Clark

# *I Dream a World*

## By Brian Lanker

In 1987, photographer Brian Lanker (1947–2011) embarked on a project to photograph African American women who, in his words, “knew the bonds of bigotry and the chains of chauvinism and sought release from both,” and who “pioneered the way and opened door after door.”

Brian Lanker was a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer with roots in newspaper photojournalism. His ambitious, two-year project documented in words and images scores of courageous, groundbreaking African American women whose lives and careers had left an indelible mark on the nation. The resultant photographic essay consisted of portraits of women who distinguished themselves in fields as varied as journalism, the performing and fine arts, politics, literature, sports, and the civil rights movement. In February 1989, this extraordinary collection of photographs made its debut in the critically acclaimed exhibition *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America* at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. That exhibition, accompanied by a book of the same name, later traveled to major museums throughout the country.



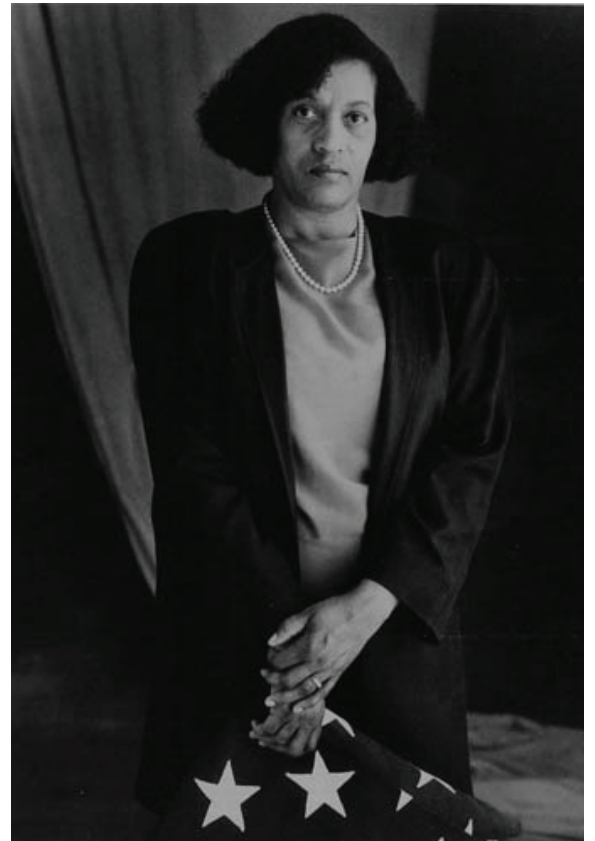
YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE



PRISCILLA L. WILLIAMS



BEAH RICHARDS



MYRLIE EVERS

Left to right: *Yvonne Burke* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection. *Priscilla Williams* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection. *Beah Richards* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection. *Myrlie Evers* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.





KATHERINE MARY DUNHAM

*Katherine Mary Dunham* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.





MAYA ANGELOU



LEONTYNE PRICE



ODETTA



ROSA PARKS

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION: AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELEVATE STORIES OF MAJESTIC STRUGGLE AND STRENGTH

The National Portrait Gallery will present an exhibition of approximately 28 photographs in a two-part installation, ***I Dream a World: Selections from Brian Lanker's Portraits of Remarkable Black Women***, running nearly 12 months. The first installation opens July 8, 2022, and will be on view through January, 29 2023, and the second installation opens February 10, 2023 and will be on view through August 27, 2023.

"These women have descended from grandmothers and great-grandmothers who knew the lash first-hand, and to whom protection was a phantom known of but seldom experienced. Their faces are captured here for the ages to regard and wonder, but they are whole women. Their hands have brought children through blood to life, nursed the sick and folded the winding clothes. Their wombs have held the promise of a race which has proven in each challenging century that despite threat and mayhem it has come to stay. Their feet have trod the shifting swampland of insecurity, yet they have tried to step neatly onto the footprints of mothers who went before them. They are not apparitions; they are not superwomen. Despite their majestic struggle they are not larger than life. Their humanness is evident in their accessibility. We are able to enter the photographs and enter into the spirit of these women and rejoice in their courage and nearness."

– Maya Angelou, for the introduction of Lanker's publication, *I Dream a World*

**"The photographer, Brian Lanker, possesses an acute eye and a brave heart. He has discovered women whose images show us the high cost of living and the rich reward of thriving."**

– MAYA ANGELOU

Although *I Dream A World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America* was conceived over 30 years ago, it may never have had more currency than now, in this very moment. The remarkable women featured in the Portrait Gallery's two-part installation of selections from this portfolio will be very familiar to audiences. They include writers Alice Walker, Maya Angelou, and Sonia Sanchez; entertainers Sarah Vaughn, Lena Horne, and Oprah Winfrey; and activists Angela Davis and Rosa Parks. Each installation will include the powerful photograph of educator and civil rights activist Septima Poinsette Clark to anchor the show, as her image embodies the determination and resilience of all the women depicted. Clark also exemplifies the ongoing progress of each generation. The first two Black female members of the U. S. House of Representatives, Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan, are included and will provide historical background for viewers who are celebrating Vice President Kamala Harris. The personal challenges and the moving journeys to power that each of these remarkable women have undertaken should prove inspirational to all visitors.





WILMA RUDOLPH

*Wilma Rudolph* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.



ALTHEA GIBSON

*Althea Gibson* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.





MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

*Marian Wright Edelman* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.





SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

*Shirley Chisholm* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.

# Who We Are

## The National Portrait Gallery

Established in 1968 as the nation's only portrait gallery, we are committed to telling the story of America in all its richness and complexity. It is through our collection of both contemporary and historical figures—in a diverse range of mediums—that we reflect the changing face of our nation. Every year, our portraits reach over 2 million visitors at the museum and millions more who access our collections through our website, traveling exhibitions, exhibition catalogues, and online sites. Through these points of access, visitors meet Americans who have shaped our nation, and, in viewing these faces and finding new connections with the past, discover themselves.

**Our mission is to tell the story of the United States by portraying the people who shape the nation's history, development, and culture.**

## Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative

In America's most defining moments—times that shaped constitutional rights, yielded scientific breakthroughs, created the symbols of our nation—a diversity of women's stories has not been widely told. The Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative illuminates women's pivotal roles in building and sustaining our country and will expand knowledge of our shared history.

With a digital-first mission and focus, the initiative uses technology to amplify a diversity of women's voices throughout the Smithsonian's many museums, research centers, cultural heritage affiliates, and wherever people are online—reaching millions of people in Washington, DC, across the nation, and around the world.



## OUR IMPACT

**117k+**

Podcast downloads



**50k**

Current online exhibitions views



**40k+**

Portrait searches



**3,700**

Digital workshops



## VIDEO VIEWS

**1.3**  
MILLION

National  
Portrait  
Gallery

**681**  
MILLION

Smithsonian  
Institution



## ONLINE VISITORS

**4**  
MILLION

National  
Portrait  
Gallery

**151**  
MILLION

Smithsonian  
Institution



## SOCIAL MEDIA



**61k**

Facebook followers

National  
Portrait  
Gallery



**197k**

Twitter followers

National  
Portrait  
Gallery



**125k**

Instagram followers

National  
Portrait  
Gallery

**2.6m**

Facebook followers



Smithsonian  
Institution

**2.6m**

Twitter followers



Smithsonian  
Institution

**980k**

Instagram followers



Smithsonian  
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 Smithsonian

Above: *Lena Horne* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.  
Front Cover: *Septima Poinsette Clark* by Brian Lanker, gelatin silver print, 1989. Private Collection.