The National Portrait Gallery Publishes a Book of Poetry and Photographs from the Past and Present Informed by the Civil War

“Lines in Long Array: A Civil War Commemoration: Poems and Photographs, Past and Present”
Co-Edited by David C. Ward and Frank H. Goodyear III

Lines in Long Array is a thought-provoking juxtaposition of modern and period poems and photographs that provides insight into the Civil War. The anthology demonstrates the enduring impact of the war on American culture because it evokes a conversation about Civil War themes between past and present.

“The National Portrait Gallery’s look to the present and the past to help put context to the Civil War fits right in with its mission to tell America’s stories,” said Kim Sajet, director of the museum. “The poetry and photographs in Lines in Long Array explore a difficult period in our past and demonstrate that this nation still grapples with this moment today.”

This poignant collection features poetry from Pulitzer Prize–winners Jorie Graham, Yusef Komunyakaa, Paul Muldoon and Tracy K. Smith, as well as other acclaimed contemporary poets: Eavan Boland, Geoffrey Brock, Nikki Giovanni, John Koethe, Steve Scafidi Jr., Michael Schmidt, Dave Smith and C. D. Wright. These modern voices interact with the 19th-century literary voices who directly witnessed the Civil War, notably Ethel Lynn Beers, Ambrose Bierce, George H. Boker, Emily Dickinson, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., Julia Ward Howe, Herman Melville, Francis Orray Ticknor, Henry Timrod, Walt Whitman and John Greenleaf Whittier.

Together, all of these voices cover a vast range of Civil War experiences, from the slave and immigrant experience to the highest reaches of the political spectrum. Many poems also explore the eternal problem of race in America and offer new interpretations of the African American experience. The themes in the poems are reinforced by modern photographs from Sally Mann and period photographs from Alexander Gardner.
Published in collaboration with the Smithsonian’s commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and distributed by Smithsonian Books, *Lines in Long Array* is a collection that meditates on this important conflict then and now. It will be on bookshelves beginning Oct. 1.

**Authors**

David C. Ward is a historian at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery. He is the coauthor of the award-winning *Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture* and author of *Charles Willson Peale: Art and Selfhood in the Early Republic*. Ward is also a poet whose collection, *Internal Difference*, was published in 2011.

Frank H. Goodyear III is co-director of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Brunswick, Maine. He was previously curator of photographs at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery. He is the author of *Faces of the Frontier: Photographic Portraits of the American West, 1845-1924*; *Zaida Ben-Yusuf: New York Portrait Photographer*; and *Red Cloud: Photographs of a Lakota Chief*.

**National Portrait Gallery**

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery tells the history of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the Portrait Gallery portrays poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives tell the American story.

The National Portrait Gallery is part of the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at Eighth and F streets N.W., Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000. Website: [npg.si.edu](http://npg.si.edu).

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