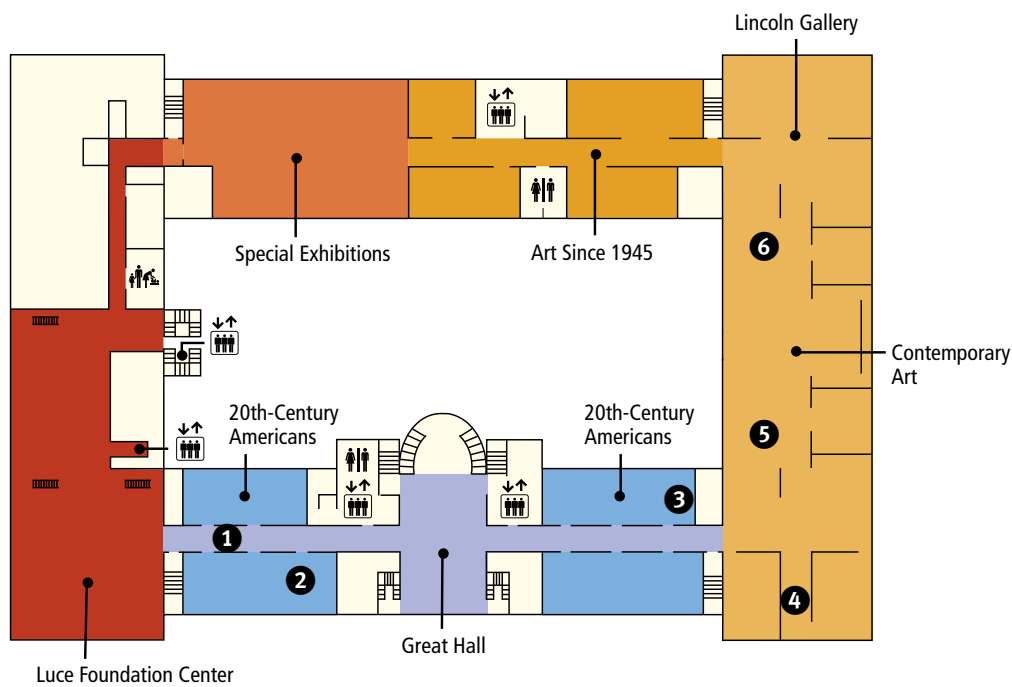


THIRD FLOOR



E.O. Wilson, 2006
Jennie Summerall

Jump In

Imagine you have jumped into this portrait. What do you see, taste, smell, and hear? What can you touch? This is a portrait of E. O. Wilson, a scientist trained as an entomologist specializing in ant biology. The artist placed Wilson in a setting similar to the landscape in Lignum Vitae Key in Florida, which he helped preserve.

1 Twentieth-Century Americans, 1980–Present



Rachel Carson, 1965
Una Hanbury

What Am I Thinking?

This sculpture is of Rachel Carson. She had a love of the outdoors and was one of the first individuals to make us aware of environmental issues. If you cared about the outdoors, what would your portrait look like? When the sculptor Una Hanbury met Rachel Carson, she immediately felt Carson's strength and liveliness and incorporated those qualities into the portrait.

2 Twentieth-Century Americans, 1950–1980



Mary McLeod Bethune, 1943
Betsy Graves Reyneau

Adjectives! Adjectives! Adjectives!

What adjectives would you use to describe the person in this portrait (i.e., courageous, triumphant, uncomfortable, calm, formal)? This portrait is of Mary McLeod Bethune, an educator and founder of the first school for African American girls in the United States. If you could paint her, what would her portrait look like? Describe your painting to the people in your group (and use some adjectives!).

3 Twentieth-Century Americans, 1930–1950

Portrait of Mnonja, 2010
Mickalene Thomas

Razzle Dazzle

From her ruby red shoes to her blue eye shadow, this lady sparkles. As an art student, Mickalene Thomas began experimenting with glitter to make her figures shine. In this painting, thousands of rhinestones create the dazzling surface. Look at the painting from different angles to see how the light dances over the surface and makes the painting twinkle.



4 Lincoln Gallery / Contemporary Art

Monekana, 2001
Deborah Butterfield

Horse Tricks

Horses are in Deborah Butterfield's blood. She was born on the day of a famous horse race (the Kentucky Derby) and has been fascinated with the powerful animals throughout her life. Can you guess what this horse is made of? This trompe l'oeil ("trick the eye") sculpture looks like driftwood, but it's not! Check the gallery label to find out what it's made of.



5 Lincoln Gallery / Contemporary Art

Woman Eating, 1971
Duane Hanson

I Scream for Ice Cream

Imagine having lunch with this woman. What might you talk about? What is she eating? This sculpture is so detailed that many people think she is real. Artist Duane Hanson used real objects and real people as his inspiration to create *Woman Eating*. Describe what happened right before this moment. Where will she go after her meal? What happens next?



6 Lincoln Gallery / Contemporary Art



Smithsonian American Art Museum

National Portrait Gallery

Welcome. Use this guide to explore amazing works of art that tell the story of America. Find each object in the galleries using the maps and images. Once you find an artwork, discover something about it by reading the notes and discussing the questions. Enjoy your visit.



1 Folk Art

Marla, 1982
Irving Dominick

Heavy Metal

After a lifetime working in the sheet-metal trade creating ductwork for heating systems, roofing, gutters, and “anything else that could be made from metal,” Irving Dominick showed his skill by creating a “portrait” of his ten-year-old granddaughter, Marla. She was displayed outside his business as a shop sign. Notice her eyelashes and her wonderfully wavy hair. Mimic her pose.



2 Folk Art

The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly, about 1950–1964
James Hampton

Top Secret

This glittering artwork holds many secrets. James Hampton created *The Throne* in a rented garage, and nobody knew it existed. Imagine opening a garage and finding this. What would you think? Describe what you found to a friend. Hampton invented his own secret code and wrote messages about this work of art. It is a secret language that cannot be cracked! Can you find the coded symbols within the artwork?



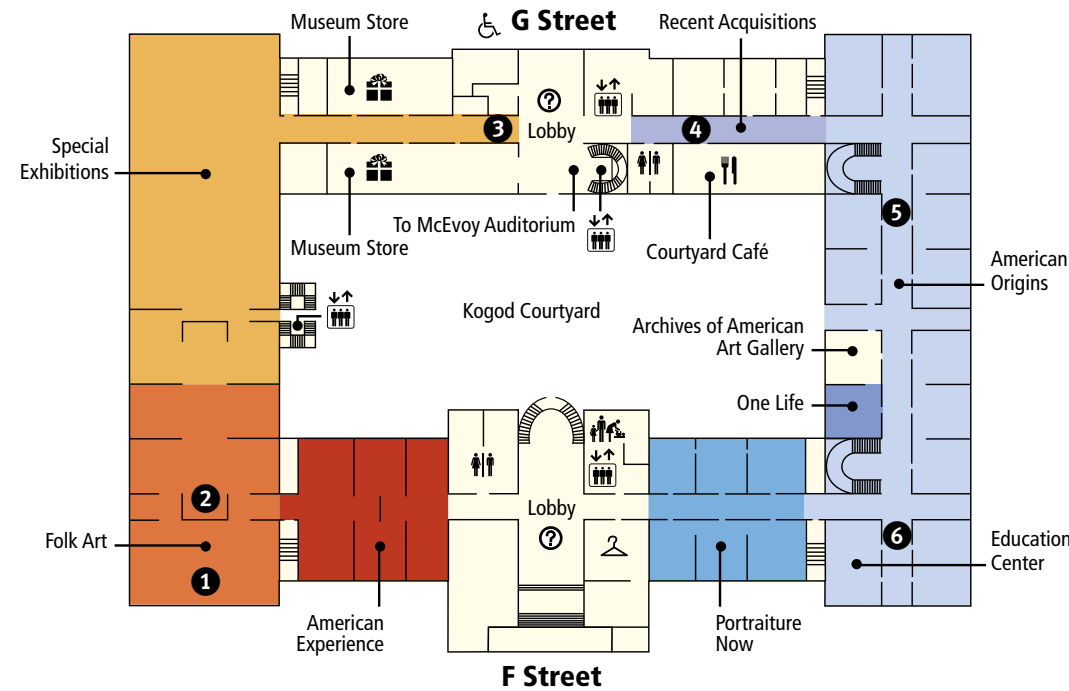
3 G Street Lobby

Preamble, 1987
Mike Wilkins

Artistic License

It took Mike Wilkins a year to collect the fifty-one license plates that make up *Preamble*, created to honor the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. Read the text aloud. Do the words make more sense when you hear them than they do when you look at them? Each license plate is designed to commemorate something important about its state. Find your own state's license plate. Have the designs for license plates changed since 1987? Think about how you might design a new plate for your state. What important idea or event would you depict?

FIRST FLOOR



You're the Expert

Are all portraits paintings?

No. In fact, the National Portrait Gallery has portraits in many different media (the materials used to create an artwork). See if you can find a drawing, a photograph, or a sculpture. A great place to look is in the “Recent Acquisitions” exhibition near the G Street Lobby. Talk with the people in your group about the different media you find there, which one you like best, and why.



4 Recent Acquisitions



5 American Origins

Men of Progress, 1862
Christian Schussele

Freeze: Strike a Pose

Look at all the individuals in this portrait. Now, pick one and pose like the person in the painting. (If you are with a group, pick several and strike a pose together.) What does it feel like to stand or sit like the person in the portrait? What would it feel like to wear his clothes or be in the room with all those people? What do you think they are talking about? Read the label to find out who is in this portrait. If you were to create a portrait showing inventors from today, who would you include?



6 American Origins

Pocahontas, after 1616
Unidentified artist

Seek and Find

Take a look at the portrait of Pocahontas in “American Origins.” It is a portrait of a Native American woman who played a key role in our early history. Play a game of “I see a ___ [name something]. What do you see?” with people in your group. Once you have found and named all the objects in the painting, read the label. Do you think the things you saw helped you understand why Pocahontas is important to American history?

Image credits

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Irving Dominick, *Marla* (detail), 1982, cut, bent, soldered, and riveted galvanized iron. Gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill Jr.

Mike Wilkins, *Preamble*, 1987, painted metal on vinyl and wood. Gift of Nissan Motor Corporation in U.S.A. © 1987 Mike Wilkins

James Hampton, *The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly* (detail), about 1950–1964, gold and silver aluminum foil, Kraft paper, and plastic over wood furniture, paperboard, and glass. Gift of anonymous donors

Duane Hanson, *Woman Eating*, 1971, polyester resin, fiberglass polychromed in oil paint with clothes, table, chair, and accessories. Museum purchase through the Luisita L. and Franz H. Denghausen Endowment

Deborah Butterfield, *Monekana*, 2001, bronze. Gift of the American Art Forum, Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Rushing, Shelby and Frederick Gans, and museum purchase © 2001 Deborah Butterfield

Mickalene Thomas, *Portrait of Mnonja*, 2010, rhinestones, acrylic, and enamel on wood panel. Museum purchase through the Luisita L. and Franz H. Denghausen Endowment © 1987 Mickalene Thomas

National Portrait Gallery

Unidentified artist, *Pocahontas*, after 1616, oil on canvas. Gift of the A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust

Christian Schussele, *Men of Progress*, 1862, oil on canvas. Transfer from the National Gallery of Art; Gift of the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, 1942

Jennie Summerall, *E.O. Wilson*, 2006, oil on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Mooney © 2006 Jennie Summerall

Betsy Graves Reynau, *Mary McLeod Bethune*, 1943, oil on canvas. Gift of the Harmon Foundation

Una Hanbury, *Rachel Carson*, 1965, bronze



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

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