

## PORTRAITS- TRAILER

What's **your** favorite portrait?

(Um, President Barack Obama's portrait by Kehinde Wiley.. Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial... It's a photography of my mother.)

And why do you love it so much?

It is very frank, it's unromanticized... this is something that's timeless.. Awe-inspiring.. It's daring.

I'm Kim Sajet, director of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. And I believe that if I'm doing my job, you'll come visit us, and when you leave, the world will look just a little bit different. Like someone had very slightly tilted the frame...

I always say to the curators, you get brownie points if you can make people cry in the galleries.

On our new podcast, we talk to authors and historians..

And what I try to say to my students when i show those Franklin portraits, it's like he's got a toothbrush hanging out of his mouth.

Artists and their subjects..

You are walking around with a pencil, and a sketchbook (uh-hm). Do people look at you and go, 'What's the creepy woman in the corner doing?' (laughter)

We ask them about their process and about their work.

I have my violet blues and I have my cobalt, Bermuda blues, cerulean blues...

And we ask, what is portraiture?

It's a reflection of us.. It's a reflection of who we are.. Cultural mirror, a historical mirror, spiritual mirror..

And why does it matter?

(And – perhaps most importantly – WHY does it matter?)

Portraiture and storytelling is a way for us to commune. It's a way for us to understand ourselves through each other.

We're called PORTRAITS. Find us wherever you get your podcasts, starting June 18th.

We have some more people, come and join us on the poof... do you like my sparkles? I do, I love the sparkles.