

# Large Print Exhibition Text

---

## The Struggle for Justice



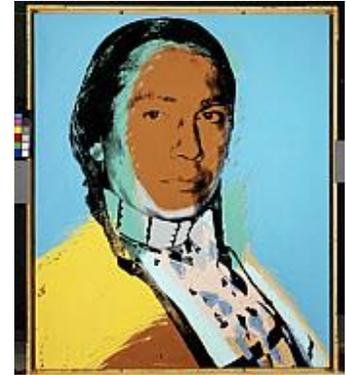
## **The Struggle for Justice**

The history of American democracy has been one of increasing participation and inclusiveness. America transformed itself from thirteen states along the narrow line of the eastern seaboard, governed by elites, to a vast country governed by a large and heterogeneous population. One of the great achievements of this past century was a series of successful campaigns to strike down long-standing segregationist practices and discrimination in American society. While these changes ultimately became enacted in the nation's courts and legislatures, the struggle to secure them was principally fought where intolerance reigned. As such, the nation's polls, buses, schools, and countless other places became battlegrounds in the crusade for equal rights. The figures represented in this exhibition were important catalysts during a period that witnessed historic changes concerning the status of women; Native Americans, Latino Americans, and other ethnic groups; LGBT individuals; and persons with disabilities.

Most striking perhaps was the progress achieved by African Americans. Although born in an earlier century, the civil rights struggle reached a crescendo in the 1950s and 1960s. Its triumphs recast the contours of American society and contributed to ongoing campaigns being waged to bring equal opportunity to all Americans.

Although not without setbacks, this expanding inclusiveness continues to be the defining characteristic of American democracy.

**Russell Means (1939-2012)**  
**Born Pine Ridge, South Dakota**



Having helped to found the American Indian Movement in 1968, Lakota tribesperson Russell Means became the most visible leader for Native American rights during the late 1960s and 1970s, a period of heightened activism among tribal communities. A charismatic and controversial figure, Means sought to make the plight of Native Americans known by staging highly publicized demonstrations at such symbolically laden sites as Plymouth Rock, Mount Rushmore, and Alcatraz Island. In 1973, he was at the center of an armed standoff with government authorities in the reservation town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, where in 1890 at least 200 Lakota men, women, and children were killed or wounded in a confrontation with the U.S. Army that spiraled into a massacre. Working from his own Polaroid photograph of Means, Andy Warhol created this portrait as part of his American Indian series.

Andy Warhol (1928 - 1987)  
Acrylic and silkscreen on canvas

**Charlayne Hunter-Gault (b. 1942)**  
**Born Due West, South Carolina**

In January 1961, after a two-year legal battle, Charlayne Hunter-Gault and fellow student Hamilton Holmes walked resolutely onto the University of Georgia campus as the first African American students to enroll at the previously all-white university. Within forty-eight hours of their arrival, students were rioting outside of Hunter-Gault's dormitory and hurling bricks and bottles through her window. Hunter-Gault and Holmes were suspended, ostensibly for their safety. They returned under a new court order, and as Hunter-Gault states, they were "determined as ever to stay the course."



This portrait by Joseph Schwarz, an art professor who helped organize a faculty resolution to reinstate the suspended students, captures Hunter-Gault's detached determination—a quality that helped see her through a tension-filled education at the University of Georgia, and to which she attributes her subsequent success. Hunter-Gault is an award-winning journalist and foreign correspondent who has worked for media outlets such as the New York Times, PBS, NPR, and CNN.

Joseph Schwarz (born 1938)  
Oil on canvas, 1961

## **Gwendolyn Brooks (1917–2000)** **Born Topeka, Kansas**

“Blackness is what I know best. I want to talk about it, with definitive illustration,” said writer Gwendolyn Brooks. From her sensitive autobiographical novel *Maud Martha* to her popular rhythmic poem “We Real Cool,” Brooks devoted her work to portraying urban

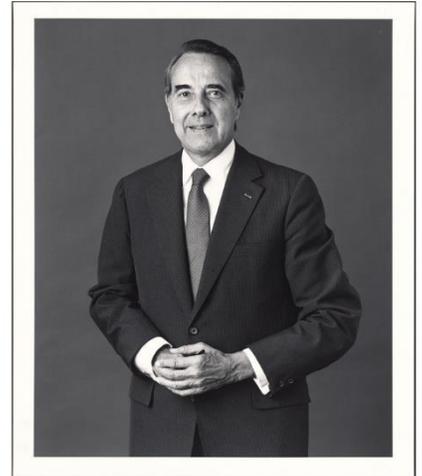
African American life with poignancy, artistry, and pride. During the course of her career, she received two Guggenheim Fellowships and became the first black writer to receive the Pulitzer Prize and earn election to the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Brooks wrote of this sculpture: “Sara, thank you for extending my life; for sending my life into bronze and beyond.”

Sara S. Miller (1924–2016), bronze, 1994



**Robert Dole (b. 1923)**  
**Born Russell, Kansas**

When President George H. W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law on July 16, 1990, Senator Robert Dole hailed the enactment of this



historic civil rights legislation. His commitment to the ADA and its goal of ending “the unjustified segregation and exclusion of persons with disabilities from the mainstream of American life,” was rooted in personal experience. While serving with the army during World War II, Dole suffered catastrophic injuries that left him without the use of his right arm. Thereafter, he identified with the disability community.

During his tenure in the U.S. Senate (1969–96), Dole supported a number of key pieces of disabilities rights legislation. Among these was the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination “on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment, and in the employment practices of federal contractors.”

Michael Evans (1944–2005)  
Gelatin silver print, c. 1984

## **Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1921–2009)** **Born Brookline, Massachusetts**

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was the creative force and organizer of Special Olympics, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization that provides training and competition in Olympic-style sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In 1962, she established a summer day camp at her home that became the basis for Special Olympics. In 1968, the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, working with the Chicago Park District, organized the First International Special Olympics Summer Games. Currently, the Special Olympics serves more than 4.9 million children and adults from nearly 172 countries.



David Lenz was commissioned to paint this portrait as part of the first prize in the museum's inaugural Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. Lenz embraced the idea of making a portrait of Eunice Shriver that would also include five persons with intellectual disabilities who have been involved in Special Olympics and in the Best Buddies program: (left to right) Airika Straka, Katie Meade, Andy Leonard, Loretta Claiborne, and Martin "Marty" Sheets.

David Lenz (born 1962)

Oil and acrylic on canvas, 2009  
Commissioned as part of the first prize, Outwin  
Boochever Portrait Competition 2006

**Betty Friedan (1921–2006)**  
**Born Peoria, Illinois**

Betty Friedan's analysis of women's limited roles in American society, entitled *The Feminine Mystique*, was published in 1963. This controversial book galvanized the modern-day feminist movement and led to Friedan's co-founding the National Organization for Women. Her focus on family values and the role of partnership in marriage continued into the late 1990s as she encouraged the creation of a "new paradigm . . . one based on today's economic and demographic realities." Artist Alice Matzkin arrived at Friedan's home in Washington, D.C., hoping to have one question answered: "What makes life worthwhile?" Seventy-two photographs and fifteen minutes later, Friedan had entered a reflective state that inspired Matzkin's depiction of the feminist matriarch.



Alice Matzkin (born 1939)  
Acrylic on canvas, 1995

## **Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993)** **Born Baltimore, Maryland**

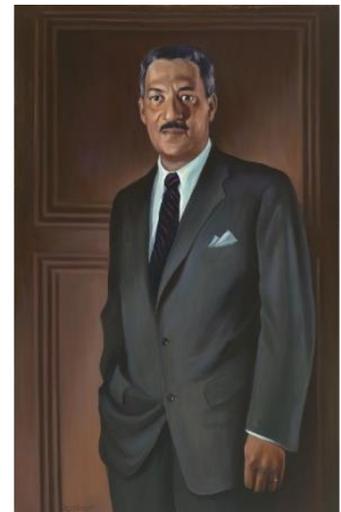
Thurgood Marshall played a major role in the 1940s and 1950s as a leader in the struggle to end racial discrimination in the United States. From 1938 to 1961, he served as chief staff lawyer for the NAACP. Marshall devoted much effort to tailoring arguments that led the Supreme Court to its unanimous 1954 *Brown v. the Board of Education of the City of Topeka* decision, which ruled segregation of public schools by race to be unconstitutional. But he realized the struggle was not over.

At a party celebrating the *Brown* decision, Marshall warned his colleagues, “I don’t want any of you to fool yourselves, it’s just begun; the fight has just begun.” He went on to become the first African American Supreme Court justice, nominated by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967.

Betsy Graves Reyneau (1888–1964)

Oil on canvas, 1956

Gift of the Harmon Foundation



**Marian Anderson (1897–1993)**  
**Born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Arturo Toscanini said that Marian Anderson had a voice that came along “once in a hundred years.” When one of Anderson’s teachers first heard her sing, the magnitude of her talent moved him to tears. Because she was black, however, her initial prospects as a concert singer in this country were sharply limited, and her early professional triumphs mostly took place in Europe. The magnitude of her musical gifts ultimately won her recognition in the United States as well. Despite that acclaim the Daughters of the American Revolution banned her from performing at its Constitution Hall in 1939. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt ultimately intervened and facilitated Anderson’s Easter Sunday outdoor concert at the Lincoln Memorial—an event witnessed by 75,000 and broadcast to a radio audience of millions. The affair generated great sympathy for Anderson and became a defining moment in America’s civil rights movement.



Betsy Graves Reyneau (1888–1964)  
Oil on canvas, 1955  
Gift of the Harmon Foundation

**Daniel Inouye (1924–2012)**  
**Born Honolulu, Hawaii**

During World War II, after the U.S. Army lifted its ban on Japanese Americans, Daniel Inouye joined the first all-Nisei volunteer unit, winning a Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart with Cluster after losing his right arm. He later received a Medal of Honor. Upon returning to his native Hawaii, he helped lead a movement that brought political power to the region's ethnic minorities.



When Hawaii was admitted to the union in 1959, Inouye was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Japanese American member of Congress. Having won a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1962, he became the Senate's senior member in 2010, placing him third in the line of presidential succession and making him the highest-ranking public official of Asian descent in American history. Inouye gained national attention in 1974, when he served on the Senate Watergate Committee. In 1976, he was appointed to chair the Senate Committee on Intelligence.

George Tames, 1919 – 1994  
Gelatin silver print, 1960  
Gift of Frances O. Tames

**Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962)**  
**Born New York City**

As the nation's first lady from March 1933 to April 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt transcended her role as hostess and proved to be a vital force in Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration.

She took public stands on issues ranging from exploitive labor practices to civil rights and often urged her husband to advocate for causes he might otherwise have avoided.



to

Her activism did not end with her departure from the White House. As a U.S. delegate to the United Nations (1945–52), Mrs. Roosevelt was instrumental in formulating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and securing its ratification by the General Assembly in 1948.

This painting, which is based on a photograph from 1944, was created by a Polish artist and may have been presented to the first lady as a gesture of gratitude. In 1946, Mrs. Roosevelt repeatedly called attention to the terrible conditions in post-war Poland.

**Bernard Tadeusz Frydrysiak (1908–1970)**

Oil on canvas, 1946

Loaned by Ford and Marni Roosevelt

**Earl Warren (1891–1974)**  
**Born Los Angeles, California**

During a long career as attorney general and governor of California, and then as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Earl Warren profoundly changed his views on race. In the 1920s, he was a member of a number of nativist organizations and showed a particular hostility toward Asian Americans. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he enthusiastically supported the internment of Japanese Americans. Then, as governor (1943–53), he surprised Californians by becoming a progressive Republican. President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Warren as Chief Justice in 1953, expecting a moderate on such issues as race. But in the Court's historic 1954 decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, Warren placed himself in the vanguard of those fighting for racial equality. Writing for the Court, he declared, "In the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."



Emil Jean Kosa Jr. (1903–1968)  
Oil on canvas, 1963

**Albert Einstein (1879–1955)**  
**Born Ulm, Germany**

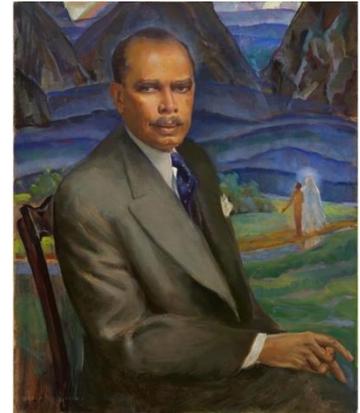
Theoretical physicist Albert Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921. Less well known is the fact that he was an influential civil rights activist. In 1946, Einstein worked closely with Paul Robeson on an anti-lynching campaign. Later, he and his wife welcomed Marian Anderson into their home after she was denied lodging at the Nassau Inn in Princeton, New Jersey, due to her skin color. Regarding racism in the U.S., Einstein observed, “The more I feel an American, the more this situation pains me. I can escape the feeling of complicity in it only by speaking out.”



Jo Davidson (1883–1952)  
Terra-cotta, c. 1934  
Gift of Dr. Maury Leibovitz

**James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)**  
**Born Jacksonville, Florida**

James Weldon Johnson was a Renaissance man: successful Broadway lyricist, poet, novelist, diplomat, and a key figure in the NAACP. In 1900, he collaborated with his brother to produce "Lift Every Voice and Sing," a song that later acquired the subtitle of "The Negro National Anthem." President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Johnson consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua, where he served with great distinction. In the 1920s, Johnson became a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, known for his anthology, *The Book of American Negro Poetry*; his work on African American religion, *God's Trombones*; and *Black Manhattan*, the first history of African Americans in New York City. As chief operating officer of the NAACP during that same decade, he helped formulate the strategy that would later overturn American segregation laws. The background of this portrait recalls "Creation," Johnson's best-known poem in *God's Trombones*.



Laura Wheeler Waring (1887–1948)  
Oil on canvas, 1943  
Gift of the Harmon Foundation

**Paul Robeson (1898–1976)**  
**Born Princeton, New Jersey**

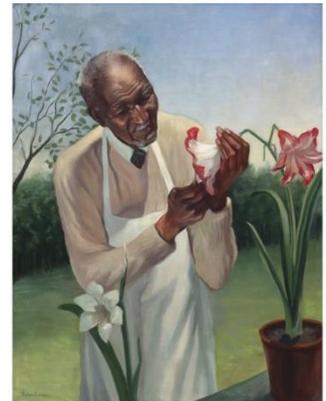
A celebrated dramatic actor and concert artist, Paul Robeson was also a strong voice in the struggle for racial equality. Encouraged by the professional opportunities and broader acceptance afforded him in Europe, he spent much of his early career performing abroad. When he returned to the United States, he spoke out forcefully against the injustices he encountered. His conviction that socialism could produce a more just society put him at odds with a rising tide of conservatism in post-World War II America. Cast as “un-American,” Robeson was effectively blacklisted for the remainder of his life.



Jacob Epstein (1880–1959)  
Bronze, 1928

**George Washington Carver (c. 1864–1943)  
Born Diamond Grove (formerly Diamond),  
Missouri**

Born into slavery, George Washington Carver overcame the obstacles of slender means and racial discrimination to seek an education. He believed that “when you can do the common things of life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.” These words, coupled with his lifelong goal to help poor black farmers trapped in sharecropping and dependency on cotton as a crop, pervaded his work at Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute, where he was director of agricultural teaching and research for nearly forty years. Carver’s laboratory investigations led to the discovery of more than 450 new commercial products—ranging from margarine to library paste—that could be extracted from previously untapped sources such as the peanut and sweet potato. He demonstrated for southern farmers the wisdom of diversifying crops, instead of relying mainly on the soil-exhausting crop of cotton.



Betsy Graves Reyneau (1888–1964)

Oil on canvas, 1942

Gift of the George Washington Carver Memorial  
Committee to the Smithsonian Institution, 1944

**Walter Reuther (1907–1970)**  
**Born Wheeling, West Virginia**

One of the nation's most influential labor leaders, Walter Reuther was also a staunch civil rights advocate. Only sixteen when he began working in a West Virginia steel plant, Reuther moved to Detroit in 1927, where he found a job with the Ford Motor Company. In 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, Reuther left Ford to study manufacturing practices abroad.



Immersing himself in the labor movement after returning to the U.S., he began organizing auto workers into the United Auto Workers (UAW) in 1936. Reuther believed strongly in aligning the labor movement with the broader struggle for civil rights. Under his leadership, the UAW challenged “Jim Crow” segregation and championed the integration of the nation's factories. After Reuther galvanized union support for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Time magazine observed, “Of all prominent labor leaders, [Reuther] maintained the closest ties to the poor, the black and the young.”

Boris Chaliapin (1904-1979)  
Gouache on paperboard, 1945  
Time cover, December 3, 1945  
Gift of Mrs. Boris Chaliapin

## **William Campbell (1917–2012)** **Born Tuskegee, Alabama**

A decorated fighter pilot who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, William A. “Bill” Campbell joined the military in 1942, when all branches of the armed forces were rigidly segregated. Shortly after America’s entry into World War II, Campbell enrolled in flight training at special facilities established for African American pilots and technicians at Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University).



Earning his wings in July 1942, Second Lieutenant Campbell was assigned to the U.S. Army Air Corp’s Ninety-Ninth Pursuit Squadron. On June 2, 1943, he saw action as a wingman on the inaugural combat mission carried out by the Tuskegee Airmen. The first African American pilot to bomb an enemy target, Campbell flew 106 missions and ended the war as commander of the Ninety-Ninth Fighter Squadron.

Awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and thirteen Air Medals, he retired from the service as a full colonel in 1970.

Betsy Graves Reyneau (1888–1964) Oil on canvas,  
1944

Gift of the Harmon Foundation

**Carrie Chapman Catt (1859–1947)**  
**Born Ripon, Wisconsin**

Carrie Chapman Catt's organizational talents are credited with making the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) an effective force in winning the struggle for women's right to vote. In NAWSA, she worked with such leaders as Susan B. Anthony to win the franchise state by state and also for a constitutional amendment. Initially condemning America's flood of immigrants, whom she believed were influenced by their paternalistic Old World cultures to vote against women's suffrage, Catt eventually discarded such xenophobic simplifications, founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and became a crusader for internationalism and world peace. In 1900, she replaced Anthony as president of NAWSA and was again elected president in 1915, leading the organization during the successful passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, which guaranteed women the right to vote.



Mary Eliot Foote (1872–1968)

Oil on canvas, 1927

Gift of the National American Woman Suffrage Association through Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt

## **A. Philip Randolph protesting segregation in the U.S. Military, 1948**

Photograph by Sy Kattelson  
From the original in the National  
Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian  
Institution



## **Rosa Parks (1913–2005)** **Born Tuskegee, Alabama**

With a courageous act of civil disobedience, Rosa Parks sparked a challenge to segregation that culminated in one of the seminal victories of the modern civil rights

movement. On December 1, 1955, while traveling on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, the seamstress was arrested for refusing the driver's demand that she surrender her seat to a white male passenger. When Parks was convicted of violating local segregation laws, Montgomery's African American community launched a massive one-day boycott of the city's bus system. The boycott expanded with the help of Martin Luther King Jr. to last 382 days, ending only after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled bus segregation unconstitutional.



Marshall D. Rumbaugh (born 1948)  
Painted limewood, 1983

**James Farmer (1920–1999)**  
**Born Marshall, Texas**

James Farmer first experienced racial segregation at age three, when his mother had to explain to him that he could not buy a soda at a local drugstore because he was black. He never forgot that



at

incident. Inspired by the nonviolent protest tactics of Mahatma Gandhi, Farmer helped found the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1942 and began organizing sit-ins to protest discrimination in public accommodations. In 1961, he launched the Freedom Rides to end segregation in interstate transportation and in train and bus station waiting rooms. This initiative made national headlines when two buses carrying CORE members were firebombed and the riders were beaten by a white mob outside of Birmingham, Alabama. Alice Neel pictured Farmer “full of anger” in this portrait created in 1964, the same year that three CORE members were murdered in Mississippi.

Alice Neel (1900–1984) Oil on canvas, 1964  
Gift of Hartley S. Neel and Richard Neel

## **Farm workers' buttons**

In 1962, César Chávez held the first convention of the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW). Unveiled at this meeting was the group's distinctive symbol—a geometric design representing the Aztec eagle, which was easy to reproduce on protest signs and buttons. In 1968, amid growing talk of violence among farm workers, Chávez fasted for twenty-five days to push for nonviolent actions. A keystone to the movement was a boycott of foods—especially grapes and lettuce—grown by companies with a record of poor rights for workers. These boycotts forced companies to expand farm workers' rights.

**Dolores Huerta born 1930**  
**Born Dawson, New Mexico**



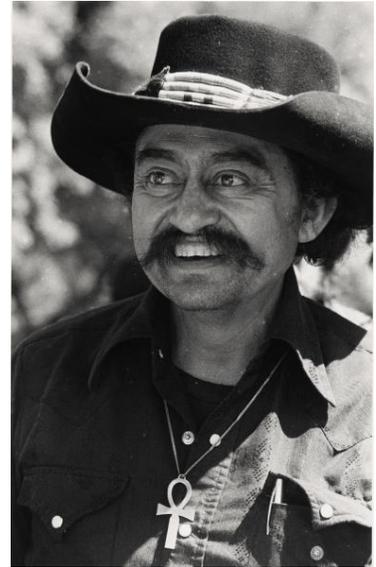
Dolores Huerta, a tireless activist and founder of two national labor unions, organized poor farmworkers in California's Central Valley. As a young teacher, the poverty of her students left her longing to do more for their farmworker families. In 1955, Huerta joined the Community Service Organization (CSO), which strove to improve the lives of impoverished Latinos. There, she met labor organizer César Chávez, and the two went on to found the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1962.

A mainly Mexican American union, the NFWA joined with the Filipino Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in the Delano Grape Strike of 1965 to protest sub-minimum wages, child labor, and brutal working conditions. After the two unions merged to form the United Farm Workers (UFW), Huerta served as its vice president, spokesperson, contract negotiator, and lobbyist. She was instrumental in the passing of the landmark California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975 and remains active today. This photograph is part of Timothy Greenfield-Sanders's series *The Latino List*, which explores what it means to be Latino in the twenty-first century.

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders (born 1952)  
Inkjet print, 2012  
From the series *The Latino List*  
Gift of Ingrid and Catherine Pino Duran Antonio  
Orendain (1930-2016)

**Antonio Orendain (1930-2016)**  
***Born Jalisco, México***

Antonio Orendain helped extend the reach of the farm workers' movement nationwide. As a young man, he came to the United States from Mexico in search of a better life. When he tried to support himself by chasing seasonal crops across state lines, he realized the precarious conditions of migrant farm workers, who toiled below the minimum wage for ten-hour days.



Discontented, he became a founding member of César Chávez and Dolores Huerta's National Farm Workers Association in 1962. Then, in the late 1960s, under Chávez's direction, Orendain organized Mexican American melon field workers in Texas's Rio Grande Valley, where the landowning elite kept them in dire poverty. Eventually, Orendain founded the independent Texas Farm Workers Union (TFWU). In 1977, the TFWU led the March for Human Rights, a 1,500-mile trek from Austin to Washington, D.C., to demand fair wages and collective bargaining rights for Texas farm workers.

Alan Pogue (born 1946)

Gelatin silver print, 1979

Gift of Gilberto Cárdenas Collection of Latino Art

**Harvey Milk (1930–1978)**  
**Born Woodmere, Long**  
**Island, New York**

Having run for office in 1973, Harvey Milk became the first openly gay elected official in major American city with his 1977 election to the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco, California. Milk had remained closeted when serving in the Navy during the Korean War and while working in the financial industry in New York City. He publically embraced his homosexuality after settling in San Francisco in 1972 and opening a camera shop in the Castro District—the city’s growing gay enclave. Outspoken and determined, Milk soon emerged as a leading activist in California’s gay rights movement. In 1978, he spearheaded the successful drive to defeat Proposition 6—a statewide initiative that would have banned gays and lesbians from working in California’s public schools. On November 27, 1978, a gay rights opponent assassinated Harvey Milk and San Francisco mayor George Moscone in their City Hall offices.



a

Crawford W. Barton (1943–1993)

Gelatin silver print, 1973

Gift from the Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art  
(Gift of Edward Brooks DeCelle)

**Medgar Evers (1901-1981)**  
**Born St. Louis, Missouri**

**Roy Wilkins (1925-1963)**  
**Born Decatur, Mississippi**

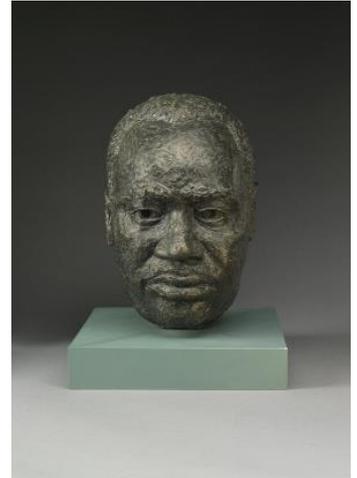
Medgar Evers (center right) played a critical role in organizing and sustaining the Jackson Movement--a multifaceted campaign to end segregation in Mississippi's most populous city. In the spring of 1963, Evers launched a boycott of stores in Jackson's main shopping district after the mayor rejected an NAACP-sponsored resolution calling for fair hiring practices in municipal jobs, desegregation of public facilities and accommodations, an end to discriminatory business practices, and the establishment of a biracial committee to combat injustice and promote reform. When NAACP national secretary Roy Wilkins (center left) joined Evers in picketing the F. W. Woolworth store in downtown Jackson, local police brandishing electric cattle prods swiftly arrested both men. This press photograph documenting the arrest appeared in the New York Times on June 2, 1963--just ten days before a white supremacist assassinated Evers.



Unidentified photographer  
Gelatin silver print, 1963

## **Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968)** **Born Atlanta, Georgia**

In the 1950s and 1960s, Martin Luther King personified the struggle for African American equality and justice. King's synthesis of Christian theology and its message of a supporting and loving God, together with Mahatma Gandhi's tactics of nonviolent protest, became the defining features of the civil rights movement. In 1963, King focused the nation's attention on the African American struggle by leading a massive civil rights protest in Birmingham, Alabama, and helping to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, for which he delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.



Joseph Stein (1916–1977), bronze, 1969  
Gift of Lester F. Avnet

**John Lewis, born 1940**  
**Born near Troy, Alabama**

Advocating nonviolence “not just as a technique, but as a way of life,” activist John Lewis (now a longstanding



member of Congress) endured repeated beatings and arrests while leading civil rights protests during the 1960s. A founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) when he was just nineteen, Lewis took the lead in organizing the freedom rides, sit-ins, marches, and other demonstrations that were part of the SNCC’s drive to end racial segregation and secure voting rights for millions of disenfranchised African Americans.

In the summer of 1962, he initiated a direct-action campaign challenging segregation in the community of Cairo, Illinois. As Lewis (far left) and other demonstrators knelt in prayer during a vigil outside the city’s “whites only” swimming pool, Danny Lyon captured this compelling image. A University of Chicago student, Lyon soon became SNCC’s official photographer and documented the organization’s civil rights efforts for several years.

Danny Lyon (born 1942)

Gelatin silver print, 1962

Gift of the artist and the Jan Kesner Gallery, Los Angeles

## **Come Let Us Build a New World Together**

In 1963, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) issued this poster featuring Danny Lyon's evocative photograph, along with the appeal to "Come Let Us Build a New World

Together." Priced at a dollar, it was the first in a series of such posters designed to raise funds for SNCC's civil rights initiatives and to carry the organization's message to a wide and largely youthful audience. Offered for sale at rallies and through SNCC's newspaper, *The Student Voice*, the print run of 10,000 posters sold out quickly. Rather than depicting the action of a single individual, the poster's image celebrates group-centered leadership in which everyone works and struggles together, side by side.

Mark Suckle (born 1942), after Danny Lyon  
Lithograph, 1963

