



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

# News

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## **The National Portrait Gallery “America’s Presidents” Fact Sheet**

Since its creation by an Act of Congress in 1962, the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery has celebrated America’s presidents. With a collection of more than 1,200 presidential portraits, the National Portrait Gallery holds the nation’s only complete collection of presidential portraits outside the White House.

“America’s Presidents” lies at the heart of the Portrait Gallery’s mission to tell the American story through the individuals who have shaped it. On July 1, when the National Portrait Gallery opens to the public, visitors will see an enhanced and extended display of multiple images of 42 presidents of the United States, including Gilbert Stuart’s “Lansdowne” portrait of George Washington, the famous “cracked plate” photograph of Abraham Lincoln and whimsical sculptures of Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon and George H. W. Bush by noted caricaturist Pat Oliphant. Presidents Washington, Andrew Jackson, Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt will be given expanded attention because of their significant impact on American history and the office of the presidency.

In 2001, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Las Vegas, donated \$30 million for the National Portrait Gallery to purchase, tour and display the “Lansdowne” portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart. Considered the greatest visual document of the founding of our nation, the “Lansdowne” portrait will be on permanent view in the exhibition.

A new gallery adjacent to “America’s Presidents” will be devoted to exhibitions on presidential themes. The first will be “The Presidency and the Cold War,” on view from July 1, 2006–July 8, 2007. During the second half of the 20th century, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a global struggle. Beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill at Yalta and ending with the collapse of the Berlin Wall, this exhibition will explore how U.S. presidents’ decisions shaped or reacted to the events of the age.

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