



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

News

Media only: Bethany Bentley (202) 633-8293
Julia Hahn (202) 633-8295

June 2009

Fact Sheet
Portraiture Now: Communities

Exhibition

“Portraiture Now: Communities”
Nov. 6 through July 5, 2010

Description

“Portraiture Now: Communities” continues the National Portrait Gallery’s series of exhibitions that presents a myriad of approaches to portraiture by contemporary artists. In this fifth installation each of the three painters selected for this exhibition has explored the idea of community through a series of related portraits of friends, townspeople or families. Rose Frantzen has portrayed 180 people from her hometown, Maquoketa, Iowa. The oil paintings are 12” X 12” and were created over a twelve-month period. Jim Torok creates meticulous small scale oil on panel portraits. On view will be his portraits of fellow artists from New York as well as a series of paintings documenting three generations of a single family. Rebecca Westcott, until her untimely death in 2004, created nuanced full-length images of her peers, often Philadelphians in their 20s, which merge expressive figuration with a gritty street art aesthetic. Seen together, the paintings by these three artists suggest the enduring power of personal communities.

Curators

Brandon Brame Fortune, Anne Collins Goodyear and Frank H. Goodyear III

National Portrait Gallery

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery was established by an Act of Congress in 1962 and opened to the public in 1968. It is the only museum of its kind in the United States to combine the aspects of American history, biography and art.

The National Portrait Gallery is a 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; TTY (202) 633-5285. Web sites: npg.si.edu and reynoldscenter.org.

###