



John Sebelius, *Toni Morrison*, 2021

Brian Lanker, *Toni Morrison*, 1984

WOMEN OF POWER

A traveling exhibition of portraits and paintings featuring 20 Black women who have changed America, including artworks by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, Brian Lanker, and interdisciplinary artist, John Sebelius.

Working more than thirty years apart, both artists portray women writers, activists, politicians, and celebrities and highlight their contributions to American history and culture. Placed in conversation with Lanker's concise and perfectly composed photographs, Sebelius's colorful paintings convey an exuberant immediacy, demonstrating the continued relevancy of Lanker's work from the 1980s.

- Available for tour through 2025
 - 20 gelatin silver prints (framed size 24" x 25") by Brian Lanker
 - 20 watercolor on paper (framed size 39.5" x 31.5") by John Sebelius
- 8 to 12 week time exhibition schedule - \$3000
- Plus one-way shipping to outgoing destination

Mulvane Art Museum ■ Washburn University ■ 1700 SW College Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66621 ■ <https://mulvaneartmuseum.org> ■ 785-670-2423

About the Artists

Brian Lanker (American, 1947 - 2011) was an American photographer. He won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for a black-and-white photo essay on childbirth for The Topeka Capital-Journal that featured the photograph *Moment of Life*. In 2019, the Mulvane Art Museum acquired his acclaimed photo series, *I Dream A World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*. The series celebrates some of the most influential figures of the 20th century as well as many unsung heroes that changed America in their own distinct ways.

John Sebelius (American, 1984) is an interdisciplinary artist who holds an MFA from the University of Kansas and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Sebelius's work has been showcased in Harper's, CNN, and The Washington Post. He has exhibited at many prestigious institutions including Vermont Studio Center, Kansas City Artists Coalition, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Sebelius spent the past three years in his studio, generating the paintings which comprise his *Powerful Women* series.

About the Mulvane Art Museum

Opened in 1924 on the campus of Washburn University, the Mulvane Art Museum has a long history of collecting and exhibiting important works of art by painters, printmakers, sculptors, photographers, and artists working across multiple disciplines and media. In 2019, the Mulvane acquired Brian Lanker's 75 portraits from the traveling exhibition and book, *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*.

This exhibition, *Women of Power*, was conceived when the Mulvane's director visited John Sebelius's studio and saw the watercolors he was creating that celebrate the contributions of women, including many of the same women photographed by Brian Lanker so many years before. An exhibition of Sebelius's paintings presented alongside the black and white portraits done by Lanker in the 1980s offers a unique opportunity to explore the enduring legacy of the women represented.



Brian Lanker, Angela Davis, 1984



John Sebelius, Angela Davis, 2021



Brian Lanker, Cicely Tyson, 1984



John Sebelius, Cicely Tyson, 2021

John Sebelius's style, evident in the portraits, is one of frenetic motion and speed. The need to create came forth at a crazed pace, as the social injustice in our country seemed to be spinning out of control.

~ Jennifer Burkhead

Brian Lanker John Sebelius

Exhibition Checklist

Maya Angelou



Septima Poinsette Clark

Mary Frances Berry



Clara Hale

Gwendolyn Brooks



Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Elizabeth Catlett



Coretta Scott King

Leah Chase



Constance Baker Motley

Shirley Chisholm



Odetta

Rosa Parks



Wilma Rudolph



Alice Walker



Maxine Waters



Oprah Winfrey



WOMEN OF POWER

- Maya Angelou
- Mary Frances Berry
- Gwendolyn Brooks
- Elizabeth Catlett
- Leah Chase
- Shirley Chisholm
- Septima Poinsette Clark
- Angela Davis
- Clara Hale
- Charlayne Hunter
- Coretta Scott King
- Toni Morrison
- Constance Baker Motley
- Odetta
- Rosa Parks
- Wilma Rudolph
- Cicely Tyson
- Alice Walker
- Maxine Waters
- Oprah Winfrey

The photographer, Brian Lanker, possesses an acute eye and brave heart. He has discovered women whose images show us the high cost of living and the rich reward of thriving.

~Maya Angelou

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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- Requires 148 running feet
- Submit a completed facility report
- Medium security
- Packing / installation must be done by professional art handlers
- Smaller versions of the exhibition are available for those with limited space