

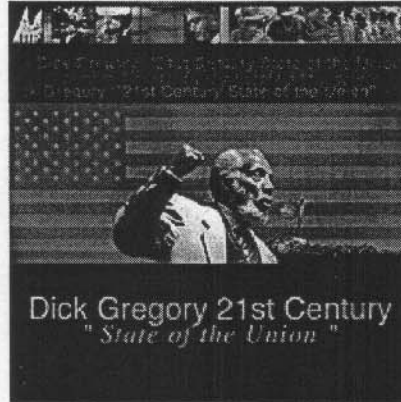
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WASHINGTON, D.C., USA: Rosa Parks as she appears moments after being presented with a resolution awarding her the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, June 15. UPI rw/Ricardo Watson



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Spotlight

Marc Gagnon, Photographic Artist

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Press Release: (Concerning permanent collections, upcoming pieces with the USPS, Nat'l Civil Rights Museum & the piece THE LAST SUPPER)

Gagnon's Artwork will Survive the Test of Time:

By Angela Ricciardi, Press Agent & Mark Shultz, Agent
Regarding Photographic Artist Marc Gagnon, PSA, ICP, NPPA

With most photographers, their photography is based on time in taking portraits, working on commercial and fashion assignments, and shooting weddings. Marc Gagnon, an American with French heritage, maintains the title of "Photographic Artist," and his business is as much related to, as the classic masters as Renoir, Rembrandt, Monet and DaVinci. Currently, Marc Gagnon has 71 permanent, public and private collections, which means his images have been accepted to either hang or to be restored in archives permanently in museums, libraries, and public buildings or with renown collectors of the art world.

A few notable collections are The Smithsonian-National Museum of American History, The National Library of Spain, The National Museum of Photography in the Royal Library of Denmark, and four Presidential Libraries including The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, The Gerald R. Ford Library, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Some of his other works are with the

National Agricultural Library, National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, Kensington Palace, and International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum.

Gagnon's work also appears in some very special places as the Kennedy Space Center, and the King Center to commemorate the committed actions of social change of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. Gagnon is currently working on a collage consisting of a Civil Rights theme to spread his feeling of unity in these troubled times. The name of the collage is Frames of Reference of Civil Rights. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson also accepted the piece into the LBJ Presidential Library.

Gagnon's main focus is to work with people of varied cultures in the hope of bringing these people together through art. This is so demonstrated in many of his collections such the piece On The Threshold of Liberty which hangs in the office of the President of the Republique of France. Our symbol of freedom was actually a gift from the country of France. Gagnon is working on a variety of pieces and collages aimed at this goal for unity of the world. With reference to civil rights, Gagnon has been working on this collage for over a year. The artist became inspired through a speech by Dr. William Cosby, Ed.D. who spoke on racism at the University of Massachusetts. Gagnon became to see and hear the seeds of racism around him. Marc Gagnon grew up in New Hampshire and was not in touch with many minorities. This speech inspired him to seek out people of different cultures. Needlessly to say, Dr. Cosby made a substantial impact on his life and influenced his artwork. This also lead him to research the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, President John F. Kennedy, as well as Senator Robert Kennedy at the University of Georgia Law School and President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Recently Gagnon's proposal on a special 9/11 art collage piece has been approved by the licensing division of the United States Postal Service. There will be a series of pieces within this 40"X30" collage consisting of three new pieces of artwork created by Gagnon along with some of his other well known ones. Some of these pieces are on display at the Delray Beach Public Library from June throughout the month of August. The most gripping piece in the collage, The Face of Humanity, is a close-up image of a betrayed Muslim woman. The piece is scheduled to be released within the next three months. One piece is scheduled to be permanently placed in the Smithsonian-National Postal Museum, and The White House. A third piece will be auctioned off at Sothebys and the proceeds will be distributed properly to the families of the victims.

One of Gagnon's most noted works is of the historic ships The Hesper and The Luther Little. The photographic work is titled Lost Landmark (aka Landmark Lost), and has been accepted into the Permanent Collections of The Smithsonian, National Museum of American History. The Town of Wiscasset, Main, is currently publicly displaying the piece in the Town Office along with the media-kit that Gagnon submitted. The Town of Wiscasset decided that the piece would be viewed during one of their Selectmen's Meetings on August 8, 2001. Sandra Johnson, the Town Clerk, made the presentation to the attendees that included business owners, officials and townspeople. The Governor of Maine also has the piece hung in his office and personally thanked Gagnon in a handwritten postcard. Gagnon visited and photographed the ships after viewing the Sunday Morning news show some ten years ago. The ships, declared as a national landmark, and were two of the last four masted ships built in New England, deteriorated and sunk some two to three years ago. Gagnon created a series of photographs of the ships and have forwarded other images to The Maine State Library, The Mariner's Museum and the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Recently Gagnon's work was accepted into the National Museum of Photography in the Royal Library of Denmark because of a ship built in Copenhagen, Denmark of which Danish Sailors perished in an accident. The ship is now harbored in Mystic Seaport, Connecticut. The image is in the Governor's Office in Hartford, Connecticut. Gagnon has

contacted Governor John Rowland to let him know that the image that hangs in office has been added to the Royal Library of Denmark's collections. The people of Denmark now know that part of their heritage lie in the United States of America. The National Library of Spain has a similar collection, which is of the Castille de San Marcos, the oldest settlement in the United States. The fort, built by Spanish settlers, is located in St. Augustine, Florida.

Gagnon's interest has taken him to the wetlands and everglades to photograph the many different types of wildlife that reside there. His interest in the earth's environment lead him to further his collections in these areas. Gagnon's work also can be found at the National Agricultural Library in Maryland, the New England Aquarium, the National Wildlife Federation, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum. A photograph also hangs in the Governor's office in the State of Florida. Governor Jeb Bush is a known supporter of the environment, especially the Florida wetlands and everglades.

Gagnon's main mission of his work is to unite all cultures and show that each culture is intertwined with each other. Gagnon has a strong passion for humanity and this is demonstrated in his collections and the meaning behind them. Marc Gagnon photographed thousands of subjects of all kinds and is now determining where the images belong. Additionally, Gagnon is working on additional art pieces with a patriotic theme, strong spiritual themes, and images involving many different cultures. The Governors of Massachusetts and New Hampshire have commended Gagnon on these specific themes and goals of his work. With the events of 9/11, it is more important than ever to unify all Americans.

This photographic artist is working on four additional art pieces that especially interest him and are immense in preparation as well as their impact on society and the art world. The first is the Civil Rights Collage that intertwines three pieces in the three aforementioned places in the article concerning Civil Right's contributors. The second piece is a World Unity Piece, which Gagnon wishes to send to the Museum of Peace and Solidarity in Uzbekistan as well as the United Nations building in New York City. The piece will incorporate many western as well as Middle Eastern and Far East cultures. The third piece is photographic version of DaVinci's The Last Supper. Gagnon has already chosen his location to create this spiritual piece and is in search of a few more people for twelve apostles. Gagnon has decided to have Angels depicted in the piece. The fourth piece is an environmental piece aimed at promoting the preservation of our environment. Marc Gagnon wishes to bring grace, class, and traditional values back to the art world including aesthetic beauty.

His work is sold through Interior Designers, Art Brokers, Galleries, exhibits and word of mouth. Gagnon's management is looking toward Corporate Sponsorships, and the selling of his work through many paper product companies which manufacture greeting cards, posters, postcards, wallpaper murals, and assorted other products. What Gagnon states, "I cannot believe that no one is doing what I am doing." "I also cannot believe that my work has been so readily accepted and in such a short time." Gagnon's collections are literally growing at one collection every two weeks. Currently, Gagnon has over eighty collections pending and some of these pending pieces are being reviewed by such places as The Hermitage in Russia, Musee D'Orsay in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, National Library of Russia, and the George Eastman House to name a few. Gagnon has a strong desire to continue to strive toward a premier place in world art history. Despite declines at the Louvre in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and other museums, he continues to display a positive outlook in pursuing his artistic endeavors. After all, The Smithsonian actually declined Marc Gagnon in his first submission to the museum. At the young age of 43, there is no telling where Gagnon will end up.

Upcoming Exhibits:

1. The summer of 2002, Delray Beach Public Library, from June 6-end of August.
2. Broward County BAR Association extended show to be announced.

Recently Featured & Published:

1. PSA Journal (Photographic Society of America)
2. The Miami Herald
3. Davie-Cooper City Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

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