



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

News

Media only: Bethany Bentley (202) 633-8293

Sept. 17, 2012

Media website: <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

**National Portrait Gallery Will Present 89 Sitters
In One Innovative Group Video Portrait
*Work by Lincoln Schatz Debuts Dec. 11***

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery has recently acquired *The Network*, a video portrait by the artist Lincoln Schatz. Called a "generative portrait," this piece is a single-screen video that constantly recombines 89 interviews with politicians, scientists, innovators and scholars. The piece will be on view beginning Dec. 11.

"This innovative piece presents visually the interconnectedness that defines contemporary life in Washington," said Wendy Wick Reaves, interim director of the National Portrait Gallery. "Inspired by Richard Avedon's work *The Family*, Schatz found a thoroughly 21st-century way to capture the accomplishments and aspirations of people who are leading this country in many fields."

The portrait includes people such as former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Emmy Award-winning journalist Cokie Roberts, Republican strategist Karl Rove, political heavyweight Vernon Jordan, congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and congressman Eric Cantor. The process included filming each person with multiple cameras during his or her 45-minute conversation with Schatz. He asked the leaders about their legacy, accomplishments and aspirations.

As the *The Network* plays, multiple images of the person appear simultaneously. The software then combines the interviews by topic to transition to the next person.

Schatz is a contemporary American artist best known for creating portraits of people, places and processes by using video and software to collect, store and display images.

An accompanying 223-page book titled [*The Network: Portrait Conversations*](#) will be

SI-405-2012

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION MRC 973 PO Box 37012 Washington DC 20013-7012 Telephone 202.633.8300 Fax 202.633.8243

released Dec. 11. It includes 89 interviews and 260 color photographs selected from the video footage. Public programs—a gallery talk at 12:15 followed by book signing with Schatz—are planned for the same day. More information, including a list of the sitters, will be posted at [The National Portrait Gallery](#).

National Portrait Gallery

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery tells the history of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the Portrait Gallery portrays poets and presidents, actors and activists whose lives tell the American story.

The National Portrait Gallery is part of the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at Eighth and F streets N.W., Washington, D.C. Website: npg.si.edu. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000.

###