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THE NETWORK: *Portrait Conversations*

by Lincoln Schatz

Smithsonian Books
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Occasionally, an artist successfully captures the mood and significance of an American era by focusing our attention in a new way on its most influential individuals. Think Richard Avedon's 1976 photographic portfolio, *The Family*, Annie Leibovitz's 1991 *Annie Leibovitz: Photographs, 1970-1990*, or even Warhol's 1967 *Marilyn Monroe*. Works like these have forever changed the way we think about the figures who populate the headlines and shape our culture.

This December, just as the nation is settling in after the election and reflecting on the year coming to a close, artist Lincoln Schatz (whose *Esquire* Magazine Portrait of the 21st Century won him national critical acclaim) will release a major new book and simultaneous portrait presentation at Washington, D.C.'s National Portrait Gallery: **THE NETWORK: *Portrait Conversations*** (Smithsonian Books; publication date and National Portrait Gallery portrait presentation opening: December 11, 2012).

In **THE NETWORK**, Schatz offers a stunning and unique portrayal of contemporary American leadership and innovation. Representing government, business, science, technology, and culture, Schatz' eighty-nine subjects include father of the Internet **Vint Cerf**, Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor**, Emmy Award-winning journalist **Cokie Roberts**, Republican strategist **Karl Rove**, and liberal heavyweight **Vernon Jordan**. Schatz gives voice to those searching for solutions to intractable national and international problems (National Cancer Institute Director (**Dr. Harold Varmus**), to influential Congressmen and women from both sides of the aisle (**Nancy Pelosi**, **Eric Cantor**) and to those directly representing the strategy of the 44th President of the United States (Press Secretary **Jay Carney**).

Filming each portrait via multiple cameras during a forty-five minute conversation, Schatz captures his sitters as they discuss their legacies, accomplishments, and aspirations. Working with this footage, Schatz uses custom software that constantly recombines the video based on topic – the heart of what he refers to as “the generative portrait” process – and enables him to

create a dynamic, continuously evolving representation of the similarities and differences between the sitters, free of editorial input.

While the National Portrait Gallery portrait presentation will showcase sections from each *video* portrait, the large, color book features gorgeous stills from Schatz's unique video portraiture process and includes exclusive personal essays from each subject (transcribed from their conversations with Schatz during the sitting). The book allows us to take away a permanent snapshot of this unique and intimate artistic process.

With **THE NETWORK**, Lincoln Schatz offers a window into the lives and experiences and ideas of those shaping the country today.

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About Lincoln Schatz

Lincoln Schatz is a contemporary American artist, best known for his pioneering works that create portraits of people, places and process's utilizing video and software to collect, store, and display images.



In 2008, the Hearst Corporation commissioned Schatz to create CUBE portraits to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of *Esquire* magazine. The CUBE project combined architecture, video, and performance using a video system to generate painterly screen-based portraits of subjects. The work profiled the 75 most influential people of the 21st century including George Clooney, LeBron James, Jeff Bezos, and Craig Newmark. The series of portraits was acquired by the National Portrait Gallery in 2010.

In 2007, the Billingsley Company commissioned a new work for the entrance of One Arts Plaza in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. This large-scale video memory work features two video walls, totaling more than 160 square feet. Schatz also completed commissions in that year for a new Helmut Jahn-designed high-rise in Chicago at 600 Fairbanks, and another for the entrance of Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center. Other notable commissions include Qualcomm Corporate Headquarters, San Diego; The Art Institute of Chicago; The US State Department; Across Time, a permanent commission at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago; a work made for Shanghai contemporary art collector Pearl Lam; and Reyes Holdings, Chicago.

Work by Lincoln Schatz has been exhibited at Bitforms Gallery, New York and Seoul; the Hearst Tower, New York; Sundance Film Festival, Utah; Think 21 Contemporary, Brussels; PULSE Miami; ARCO, Madrid; Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco; Gallery Simon, Seoul; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Quint Contemporary Art, La Jolla.

Recent lectures include: KIN Global Summit, Kellogg Business School, Northwestern University; PopTech, Camden, Maine; Picnic, Amsterdam; Fotoweeek DC, Washington, DC; Apple, Cupertino, California.

His work is held in numerous international public and private collections including, San Jose Museum of Art; Glatzova & Co., Prague; Cafritz Collection, Washington, DC; Fundación Privada Sorigué, Lleida; Runnymede Sculpture Farm, Woodside; Ernesto Ventos Omedes, Barcelona; Fidelity Investment, Boston; and W Hotel, Seoul.

Schatz attended the Latin School of Chicago, and received his BA from Bennington College. He was the recipient of a CORE fellowship to the Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.