



Through August 15, 2021

The Obama Portraits

A social narrative for first-time visitors, families,
and visitors with developmental disabilities



Where to Enter

The Obama Portraits exhibition is located in Galleries 182-184, in the museum's Modern Wing.

Seeing *The Obama Portraits* does not require a separate ticket. From the museum's lobby we will use a QR code to sign up for a spot in a virtual line.

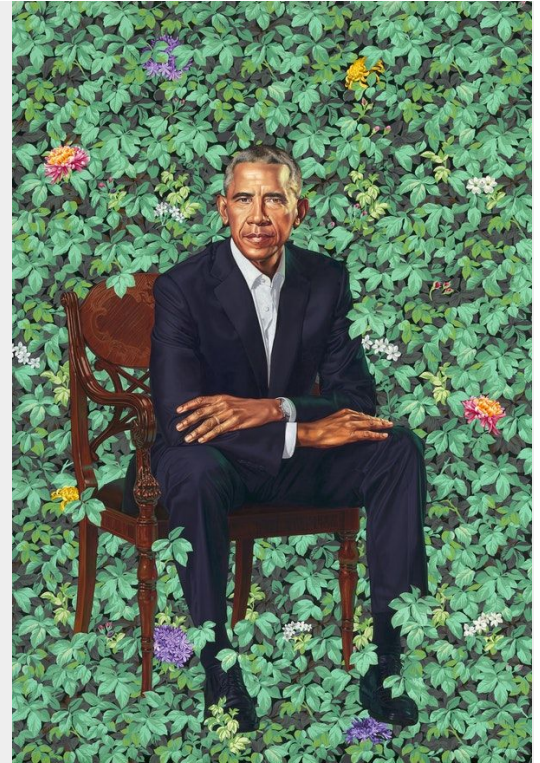


We will be able to enter the exhibition when our turn comes up in the virtual line. Because a lot of other people will also want to see the portraits, we will only spend about 5 to 8 minutes in the portrait gallery. It's possible that on some days, not everyone who wants to see the portraits will be able to see them.

Visual Description:

Kehinde Wiley's *Barack Obama*

Kehinde Wiley. *Barack Obama*, 2018. Oil on canvas. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. © 2018 Kehinde Wiley. The National Portrait Gallery is grateful to the following lead donors for their support of the Obama portraits: Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg; Judith Kern and Kent Whealy; Tommie L. Pegues and Donald A. Capoccia.



This oil painting is over seven feet tall and nearly five feet wide. At its center, Barack Obama sits in a carved wooden chair, looking straight at the viewer. A lush backdrop of green leaves partially covers his chair and stretches to all edges of the canvas. Orange, pink, white, and purple flowers dot the scene.

President Obama wears an all-black suit, black shoes, and a white collared shirt. The top buttons of his shirt are unbuttoned. He sits with his feet firmly planted, knees wide apart and arms folded, elbows resting on his knees. The skin of his face and hands is painted in golden-brown hues, and his black hair is tinged with gray. He gazes straight ahead with an expression that is calm, confident, and engaged.

Visual Description:

Amy Sherald's

Michelle LaVaughn

Robinson Obama

Amy Sherald. *Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama*, 2018. Oil on linen. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. The National Portrait Gallery is grateful to the following lead donors for their support of the Obama portraits: Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg; Judith Kern and Kent Whealy; Tommie L. Pegues and Donald A. Capoccia.



The oil painting is roughly six feet tall and five feet wide. Michelle Obama, the former First Lady of the United States, is seated against a solid, pale-blue background. She is centered on the canvas and wears a sleeveless black and white dress with colored accents in a geometric print. The flowing skirt of her dress expands in a triangular shape that extends down to the bottom edge of the canvas. Black and gray triangles and semicircles are distributed across the white base of the fabric, accented by stripes of red, pink, and yellow.

Michelle Obama's skin is rendered in shades of gray. Her expression is focused. She gazes out, making eye contact with the viewer. Her hair, parted in the middle, falls in large, soft waves just past her bare shoulders. Her arms are bent, with one forearm resting on her knee and her other hand tucked under her chin.



Visitors take in Roy Lichtenstein's *Artist's Studio "Foot Medication,"* 1974. Gift of Edlis Neeson Collection. © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein.

Accessibility

The Art Institute of Chicago welcomes all visitors and is committed to making programs and services accessible to everyone.

There are a range of resources available that have been designed specifically for adults and children with disabilities, including a map of sensory-friendly spaces in the museum. You can visit artic.edu/access to learn more.

The Obama Portraits Tour is organized by the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. Support for the national tour is generously provided by Bank of America.

National
Portrait
Gallery

 Smithsonian