

This painting by Thearthur Wright resides in the home gallery of Aaron and Leona Pointer. Entitled "The Stages of His Life," it was commissioned for Aaron's retirement and reflects not only his passions but also his contributions to our communities, namely his career as a professional baseball player for the Houston Astros and later as an NFL referee.



From the collection of Frank and Alyce Boykin, we're enjoying this print media collage of President Barack H. Obama, the 44th (and first African American) president of the United States. This quilt depicts scenes of Obama and his family in media prior to the 2008 election.

From the collection of Gerald and Ethelda Burke comes this Pullman Porter uniform. Ethelda's father was a Pullman porter, and this Pullman Porter Jacket and hat are part of his actual uniform that he began wearing in the early 1930's. The jacket is made of a fine virgin wool and the buttons are sterling silver.



The collection of Gerald and Ethelda Burke treats us to this black and white snapshot poster depicting a march. The piece is called Steps to Justice by an unknown artist.

This mask from Wayne William's collection entitled "The Face of Struggle." It is a carved masterpiece from an unknown craftsman.



From the collection of Christina Abbey, we have this portrait (artist unknown) of A. Phillip Randolph. Randolph was a leader in the American labor movement and the civil rights movement. Among his contributions is the organization/leadership of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black labor union. He also led the March on Washington Movement.

This week's exhibit features a portrait "By Any Means Necessary" (artist unknown) of leader and activist Malcolm X, who was assassinated 50 years ago today on February 21, 1965. Born Malcolm X in 1925, Malcolm later became known for his work as an African-American Muslim minister and a human rights activist. He joined the Nation of Islam while in prison, but by 1964 he'd parted ways with its leader, Elijah Muhammad. Though he scoffed at the notion of the civil rights movement's emphasis on integration; he touted black supremacy and advocated separation of black and white Americans. From the collection of Christina Abbey.



This snapshot of Martin Luther King, Jr. is a rare photograph (artist unknown) of him smoking just as he got out of jail. Many historians report that the photo was likely taken upon his release from Birmingham in 1963 or Atlanta in 1960. The photo of the selfless activist and man of God smoking is a reminder that he had his vices like any of us.

The collection of Christina Abbey features this treasured portrait of Adam Clayton Powell (artist unknown). Powell, in addition to being an ordained minister who succeeded his father at Harlem's famous Abyssinian Baptist church was an activist, statesman and politician ... some say almost ruthlessly so. As the first black congressman from New York state, he helped make both lynchings and poll taxes illegal, and chaired the House's Education and Labor committee.



From the collection of Lyle Quasim and Shelagh Taylor we have another piece of art from within our Collective family. This piece, by Alice Curry's son "Malcolm X" is a powerful version of the activist in profile.

The collection of Harold and Genie Moss features this treasured painting collage of Malcolm X entitled "Endowed by Their Creator" by an unknown artist.



From the collection of Harold and Genie Moss comes this black and white portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "I May Not Get There With You." The photographer is unknown.

Thomas and Sylvia Dixon treasure this print of an oil on canvas portrait "Ms. Ruby Green" by artist James Chapin. Chapin painted this in 1928 of Ruby Green, a contralto in Hall Johnson's Negro Chorus in Manhattan. Known for her gospel performances, she later went to Israel to perform in Porgy and Bess.

