“Behind the Scenes of the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative"

Dorothy Moss outlines the creation of the Smithsonian's most expansive pan-institutional (19 museums, 9 research centers) project to date: The American Women's History Initiative. Stories of women's stories have often been neglected when describing our country’s most defining moments, such as the fight for constitutional rights, scientific breakthroughs, and creation of national symbols. The American Women's History Initiative ensures that the untold stories of women pioneers and trailblazers who shaped American society and changed the course of American history are given a proper place. The initiative succeeds in its goal to ensure that the roles of women in American history are well-known, accurate, acknowledged, and empowering.

**Dorothy Moss** is curator of painting and sculpture at the National Portrait Gallery and coordinating curator of the Smithsonian Women’s History Initiative. After graduating from Smith College, Moss earned an MA in art history from Williams College, and a PhD in art history from the University of Delaware.

Moss directed the 2013, 2016, and 2019 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competitions, a triennial contest which encourages artists from across the United States to submit artworks that challenge the definition of portraiture. In 2015, Moss initiated the Portrait Gallery’s first performance art series IDENTIFY, an ongoing series which has featured ten commissioned performances by internationally-recognized artists. Other past exhibitions were *Sweat of Their Face: Portraying American Workers*, co-curated with David C. Ward (2017) and *One Life: Sylvia Plath* (2017), co-curated with Karen Kukil.

Her upcoming exhibitions are *Hung Liu: Portraits of Promised Lands* (May 2021); *One Life: Maya Lin* (2022); and *Kinship* (2022).