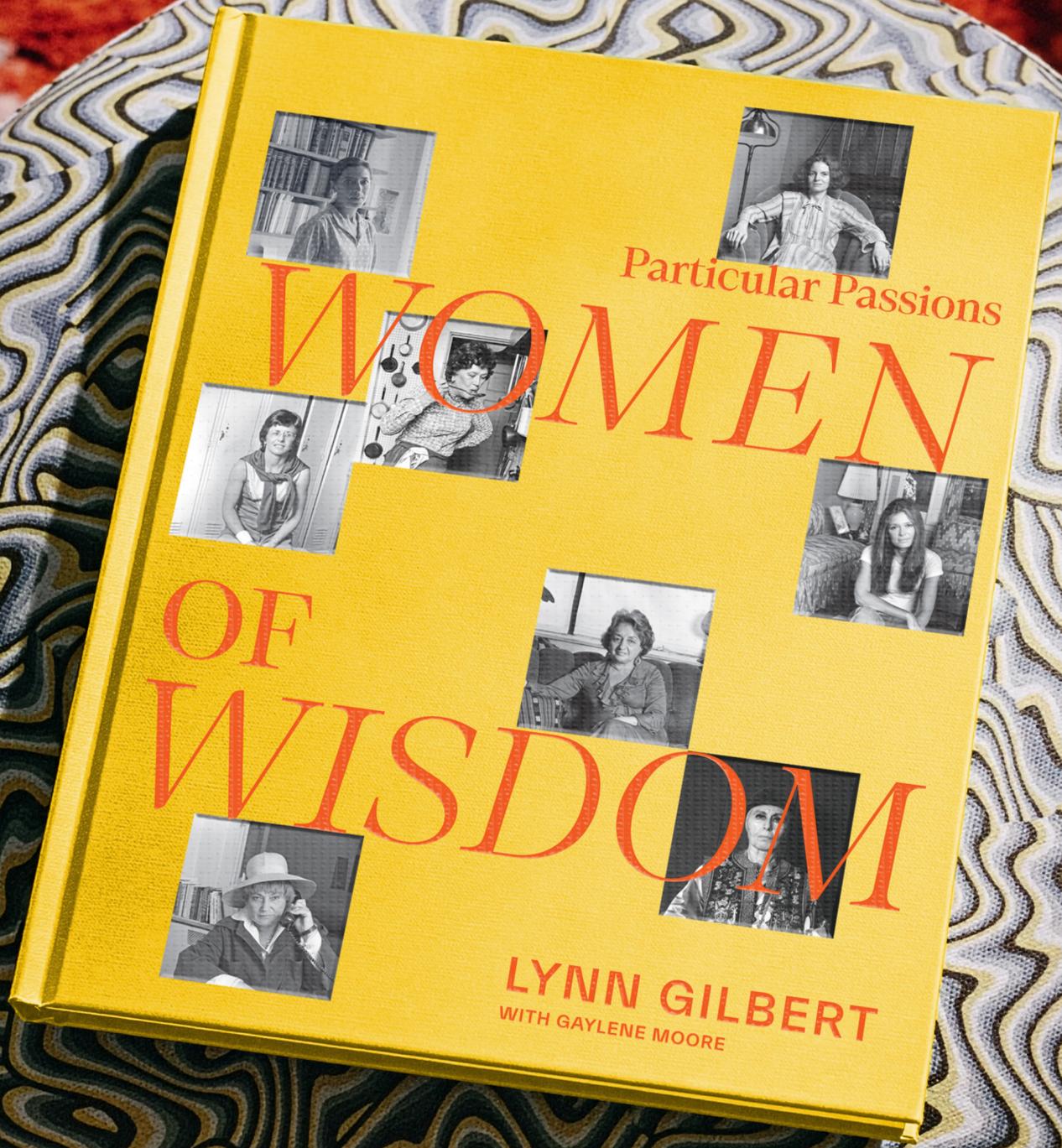


LYNN GILBERT

THE WOMEN'S PROJECT
PRESS KIT



Particular Passions

WOMEN

OF WISDOM

LYNN GILBERT
WITH GAYLENE MOORE



DENISE SCOTT BROWN, 1972

“As planner, the vision of the world I’d like to be part of creating is pragmatic, not utopian. By understanding the forces that are shaping, or misshaping the town or city, I hope to help its citizens use these forces to get where they want to go.”

DENISE SCOTT BROWN, 1972



BELLA ABZUG



GRACE MURRAY HOPPER

“In 1976, as an unknown children’s photographer, I was commissioned by Pace to photograph Louise Nevelson, one of the 20th century’s greatest artists. That photograph, my first formal portrait of an adult, became her iconic portrait — and my calling card to gain access to other extraordinary women.

I dove into uncharted territory: no internet, a 1971 list of ‘accomplished’ women recognized only for their connections to men, and not a single mention of women in science throughout the entire library system.

My goal: represent key women of the second wave of the women’s movement — known and unknown — with accurate ethnic and professional diversity.

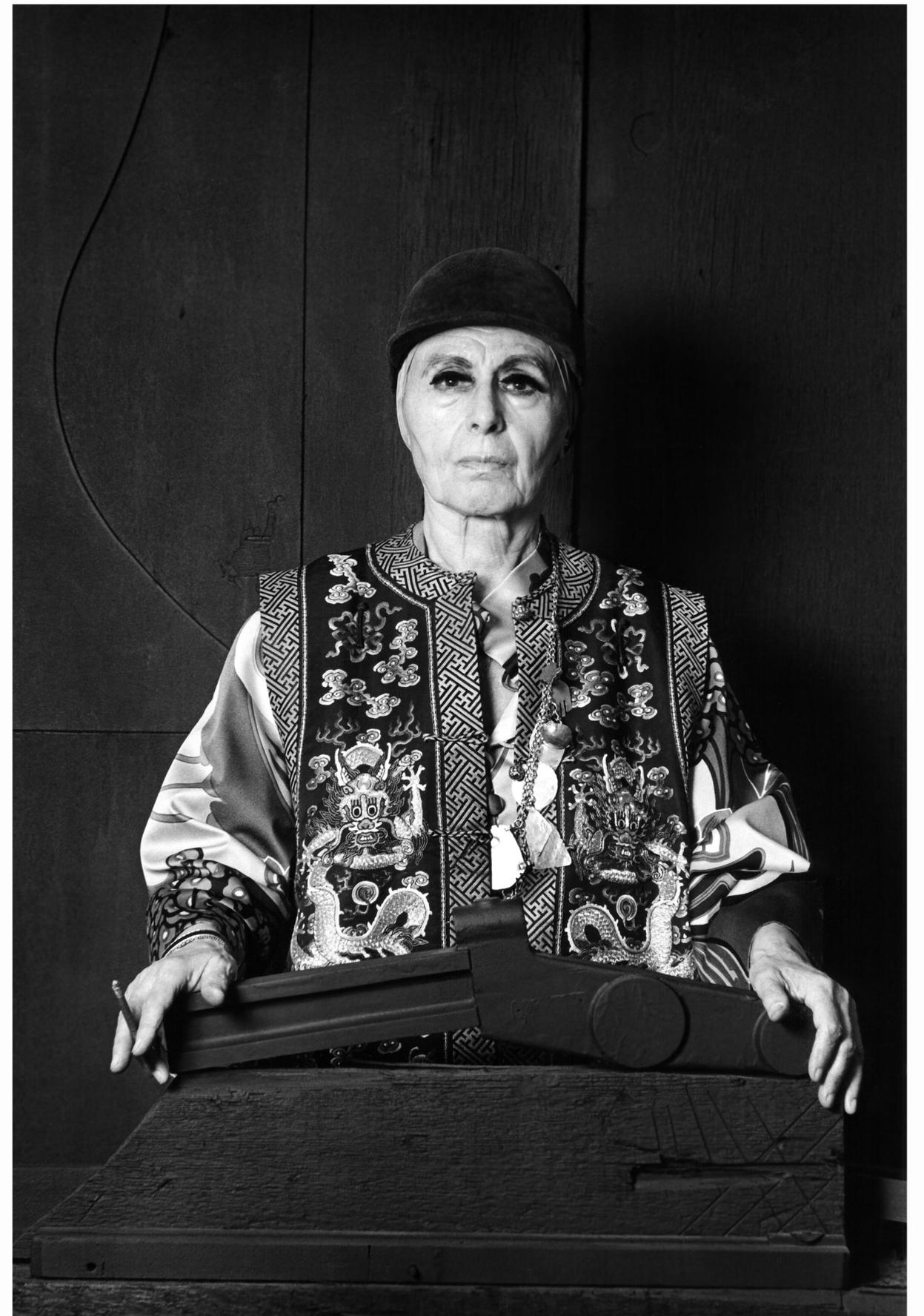
Librarians and three experts in each discipline helped create that representation. One woman worked in tiny quarters two subbasements down in a government building; today, a battleship bears her name. Another who claimed she wasn’t important enough to be included is now on an American stamp.

Perseverance substituted for not having a publisher. *Particular Passions: Talks with Women Who Shaped Our Times*—portraits and stories in their own voices was published in 1981.

This book stands alone in documenting one of the most critical eras in women’s history — capturing how these pioneers, no different than other women, overcame every obstacle in a male-dominated world, transforming their passion into power.

In their intimate and revealing stories, they share not only how they fulfilled their own potential but also how they persevered beyond, opening new worlds for women around the world.”

— Lynn Gilbert, 2026



“Particular Passions: Talks with Women who Shaped our Times” profiles forty-six American women who pioneered in fields that had only been open to men. Overcoming enormous obstacles they succeeded in the arts, sciences, athletics, law, mathematics, politics, and other disciplines. As a result of the opportunities they created, they not only changed lives for women in America but around the world.

In brief, in chapters accompanied by illuminating portraits, they share their journeys in their own voices. As their inspirational stories unfold in “Particular Passions,” the evolution of the Women’s Movement from the 1920s to the late 1970s in America is revealed.

Women’s Project – List of Subjects

Arts

Nancy Hanks
Tatyana Grosman
Agnes de Mille
Dorothy Canning Miller
Louise Nevelson
Aileen Osborn Webb

Architecture

Denise Scott Brown
Ada Louise Huxtable

Astronomy

Cecelia Helena
Payne-Gaposhkin

Civil & Women’s Rights

Bella Abzug
Betty Friedan
Gloria Steinem
Addie Wyatt

Computer Science

Grace Murray Hopper

Culinary Arts

Julia Child

Entertainment

Dede Allen
Lucy Jarvis
Barbara Walters

Education

Joan Ganz Cooney
Elizabeth Duncan Koontz

Fashion

Diana Vreeland



Finance

Sylvia Porter
Muriel Siebert

Horticulture

Ernesta Drinker Ballard

Law

Shirley Hufstедler
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Constance Baker Motley
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Justine Wise Polier

Literature

Frances Steloff

Medicine

Mary Steichen Calderone
Judianne Densen-Gerber
Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
Helen Taussig

Music

Sarah Caldwell
Alberta Hunter
Mary Lou Williams

Politics | Public Policy

Dorothy Height
Margaret Kuhn

Science

Margaret Mead
Chien-Shiung Wu
Rosalyn Yalow

Sports

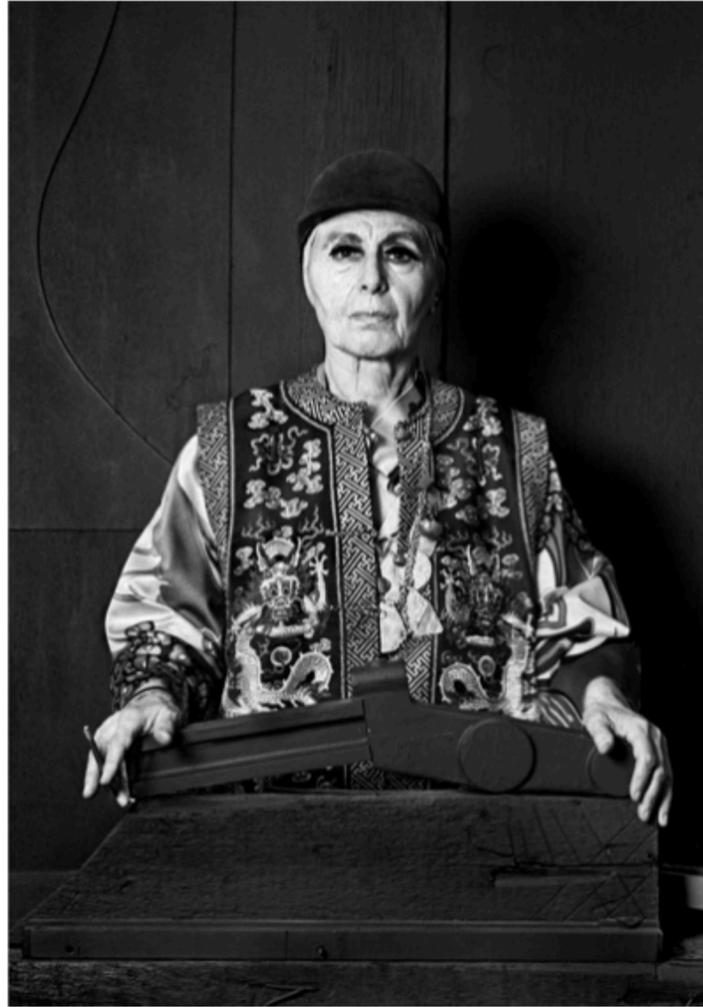
Billie Jean King

Theater

Lillian Helman
Ellen Stewart

Theology

Rosemary Ruether



“The thrill was in each woman opening up and showing me who they really were.”
— Lynn Gilbert

“I started law school in 1956, one of nine women in an entering class of over five hundred.

We wondered why there were only nine and asked a faculty member — ...“Is it discrimination?” we inquired. “Certainly not,” he said. “From the large gray middle of the applicant pile we try to take people who have something unusual... If you are a bull fiddle player, for example, you would get a plus, and if you’re a woman you would get a plus.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

American lawyer and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States





“In later years, if I’m remembered at all it will be for inventing a phrase like “reproductive freedom because before that we talked about “population control,” which meant that someone else was going to make the decision, not us.

I think the revolutionary role of a writer is to make language that makes coalition possible, language that makes us see things in a new way.”

Gloria Steinem

American Journalist, Feminist and Activist

“As planner, the vision of the world I’d like to be part of creating is pragmatic, not utopian. By understanding the forces that are shaping, or misshaping the town or city, I hope to help its citizens use these forces to get where they want to go.”

Denise Scott Brown

Architect, Urban Planner, Teacher and writer





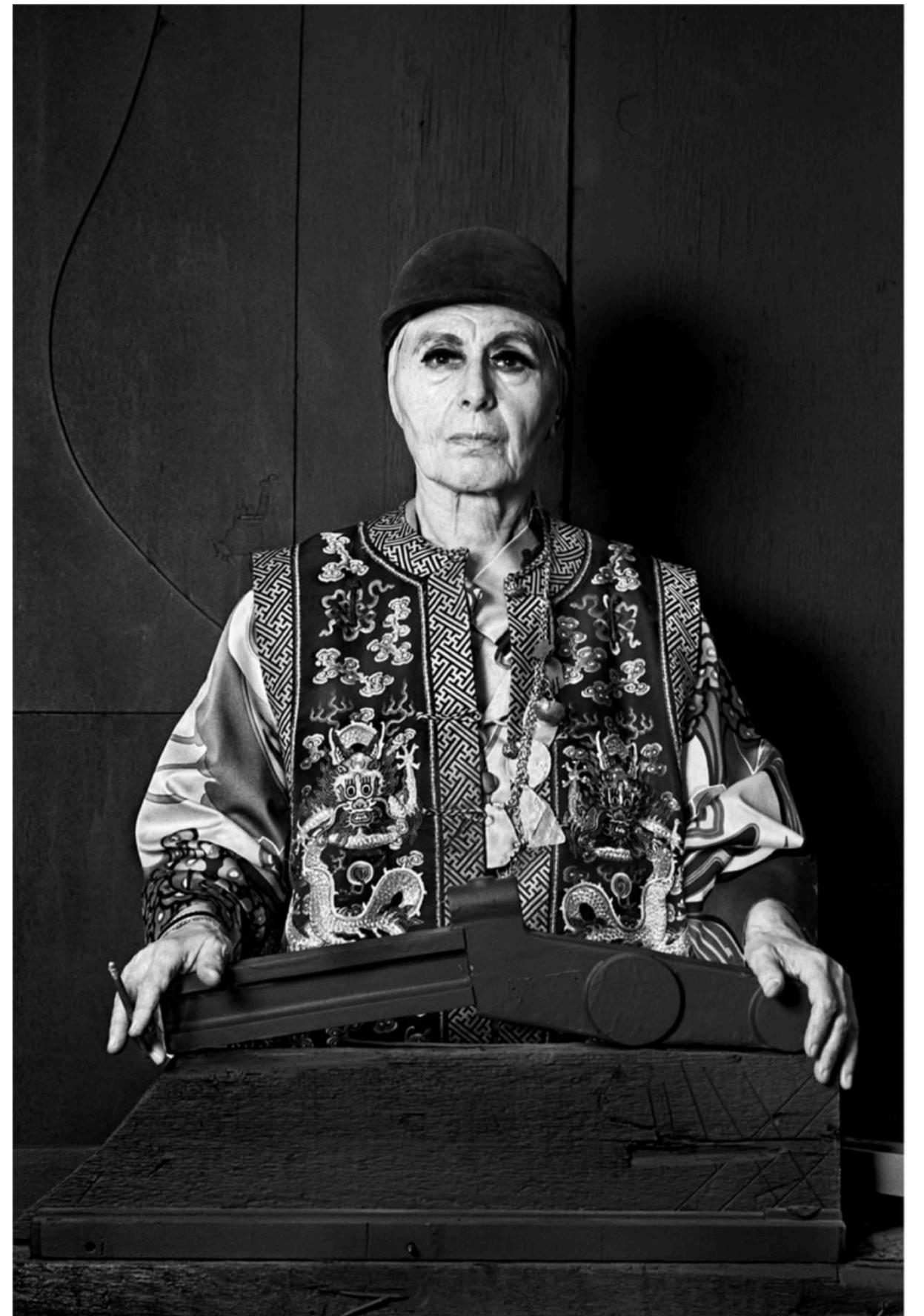
“We’ve got more work to do to completely bridge the gap between the promise of equality and the fulfillment of that promise because it’s the only way to win for ourselves the fuller and better life we all seek. I’m a part of that movement and I hope to remain a part of it.”

Addie Wyatt

Leader in United States Labor Movement and Civil Rights Activist

“I made a beeline in my life for art. I went to art school all my life. ...See you have to have an awareness of where you want to go, who you want to associate with, then you work toward projecting that.”

Louise Nevelson
American Sculptor





“You start with an idea and you believe in it and then it grows around you...you gain confidence. Some days are big days. You jump. You get a whole excitable, marvelous...wonderful it-doesn't-balance, what-the-hell-are we going-to-do feeling. Then you know. It all comes gradually and then entirely... somehow it ends up that people like it and I'm very happy, and very proud, and very very pleased, because that's the job.”

Diana Vreeland

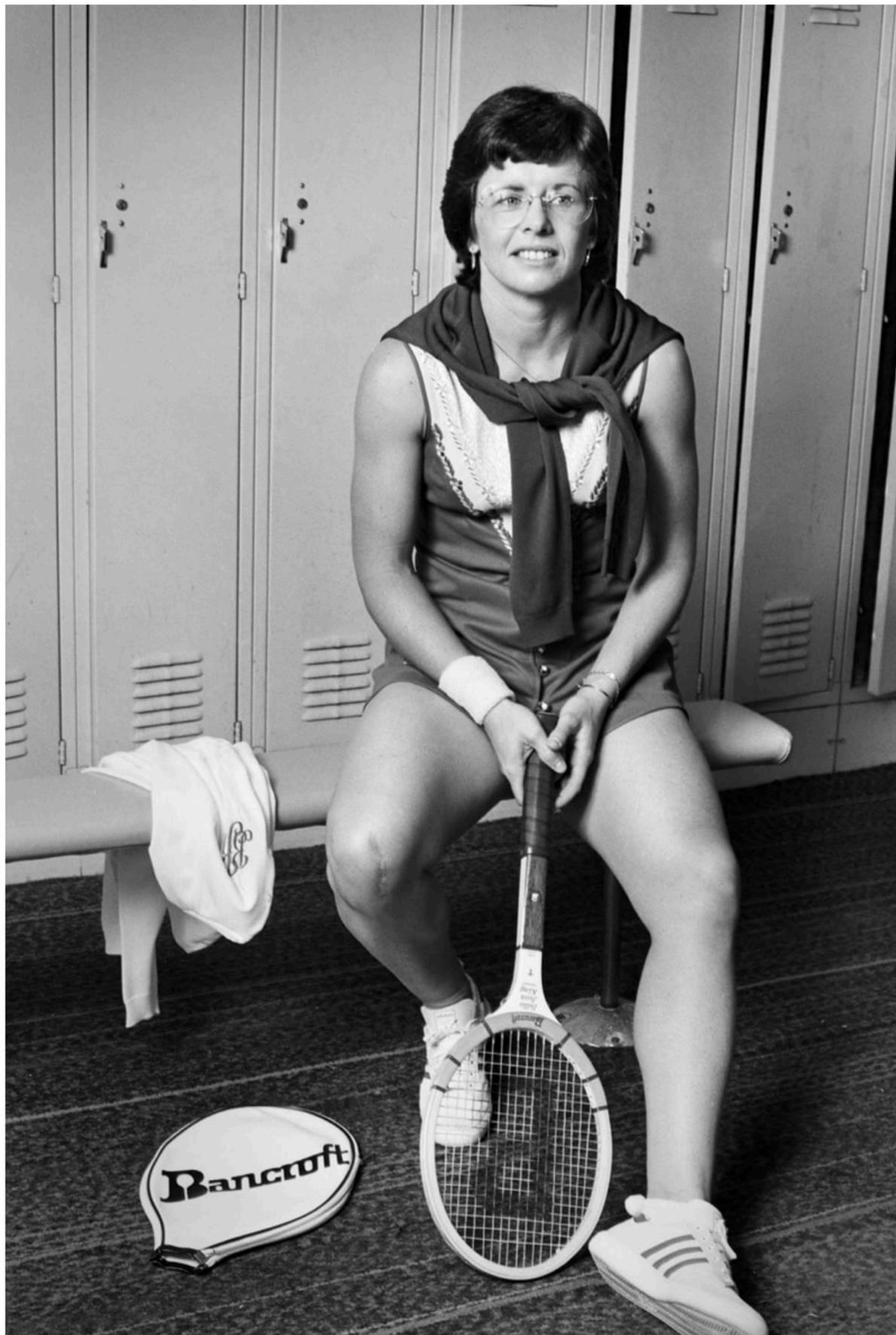
Vogue Editor in Chief & Fashion journalist

“I never thought about what I wanted to accomplish in life. I had too many things to do. I was so deeply involved in things, I just kept on going. Then something came along and changed the direction. I went off with it. I didn’t know where it was going to lead me. It just keeps on leading me.”

Grace Murray Hopper

American Computer Scientist and Mathematician





“When I was starting out in tennis, Wimbledon was it. There were no other opportunities for women tennis players. I played in 10 tournaments in 1966 and had to look hard to find even ten.”

Billie Jean King
American Tennis Player

In Sight • Perspective

12 iconic portraits of women who transformed the American landscape

Karly Domb Sadof March 30

“I never planned on becoming a photographer,” Lynn Gilbert told In Sight this week. Gilbert, who just celebrated her 80th birthday and is arguably an icon in her own right, photographed famous women in the late 1970s for her book “Particular Passions: Talks with Women Who Have Shaped Our Times.” While the book featured a grand total of 46 women, 12 of the photos will be available from Throckmorton Fine Art at The Photography Show, next week.

When “Particular Passions” was published in 1981, it was revolutionary for shedding light on the accomplishments of women. In 2018, Gilbert believes the show is particularly timely.

Fifty-three years ago, Gilbert started taking pictures of her children. “When my children came into the world, everything changed,” she said. “I documented their lives and created a photography workshop out of the school my children attended.” Some years later, when the Pace Gallery commissioned her to photograph Louise Nevelson in 1976, she said her life changed yet again. And so began her “Passions” project to photograph women who were pioneers in their fields.

“Unearthing these women was not simple,” Gilbert said. “In the late 70s, the Internet did not exist. Information on groups of women was nonexistent. Ladies’ Home Journal published the first comprehensive list of 75 distinguished women in 1972, which included women like [President Richard] Nixon’s secretary, Rosemary Woods, and Rose Kennedy, whose positions were predicated on their relationship with men.”

Instead, Gilbert spent time identifying and finding subjects on her own. “First, I determined the disciplines — art, medicine, science, law and so forth — and then consulted experts in those fields and asked for their recommendations,” she said. “Some were well known, even world-renowned, while others weren’t but were just as significant in their own fields.” She set the criteria that each subject needed at least three referrals by solid sources in their industry before she would consider including them.

Throughout her process, her goal stayed consistent: to create a body of work that identified key women who were the first to create opportunities in fields traditionally dominated by men. “Change will continue, but these are the women who were the pioneers of this change,” Gilbert said.

Here are some of those women.



Ruth Bader Ginsberg, 1978. (Lynn Gilbert)



Louise Nevelson, 1976. (Lynn Gilbert)



Gloria Steinem, 1977. (Lynn Gilbert)



Billie Jean King 1978 (Lynn Gilbert)



Barbara Walters, 1980. (Lynn Gilbert)



Betty Friedan, 1978. (Lynn Gilbert)



Diana Vreeland, 1978. (Lynn Gilbert)



Grace Murray Hopper, 1978. (Lynn Gilbe



Joan Ganz Cooney, 1977. (Lynn Gilbert)



Lucy Jarvis, 1977. (Lynn Gilbert)



Bella Abzug, 1978. (Lynn Gilbert)



THE EYE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

L'OEIL DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

AIPAD 2018: Richard Avedon Masterclass, Lynn Gilbert, Imogen Cunningham

PHOTO FAIR

The Eye of Photography dedicates a special edition to this renowned photography fair in New York, featuring a selection of exhibitions and prints to buy this week with, for each of them, a word by their owners.



Rare images of the Avedon Masterclass in 1967

presented by Throckmorton Fine Art



A time capsule of the American feminist movement

presented by Throckmorton Fine Art



Imogen Cunningham



Robert McCabe

Louise Nevelson Exhibition Alights in Venice, 60 Years After the Iconic Artist Represented the U.S. at the Biennale

BY SARAH DOUGLAS April 20, 2022 4:06pm

f t p +



Installation view of "Louise Nevelson: Persistence," 2022, at Procuratie Vecchie, Venice. PHOTO: LORENZO PALMIERI

Currently, all around Venice during the Biennale—plastered on walls, on the sides of water buses as they float down the Grand Canal—is a commanding photograph.

In it, the artist **Louise Nevelson**, imperious, gazes out implacably through her signature heavy-lashed, smoky eyes. Standing in front of one of her sculptures, Nevelson wears a riding cap, an intricate brocade vest, and a silk shirt.

Pace Gallery's founder **Arne Glimcher** commissioned this portrait of Nevelson, whom he has long represented, from photographer Lynn Gilbert in 1976. As Gilbert has recalled, Nevelson refused to take off her riding cap. The artist's sense of independence so struck Gilbert that she ended up doing an entire series of powerful women of the time, including Susan Sontag and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



Gilbert's image of Nevelson has become something of a symbol for this year's Biennale, which, for the first time in the event's 127-year history, consists of over 90 percent of artists identify as female or gender-nonconforming.



The Venice Biennale 2022



Artist Statement



For six decades, I've photographed unexplored corners of society that existed in plain sight yet remained undocumented.

My work began with photographing my own children, but took on a new shape with a portrait of Louise Nevelson. That commission revealed a glaring absence: where were the women reshaping our world?

I tracked down and photographed the key figures of the second wave of the women's movement, creating "Particular Passions: Talks with Women Who Have Shaped Our Times, 1981"—the only book combining portraits and first-person interviews of these trailblazers at the height of their influence.

This instinct to document the overlooked has defined my career: children from more than 100 New York City families representing a world that no longer exists; Turkey's disappearing traditional homes in the first systematic documentation of its kind.

My work has been widely exhibited and published, with portraits in the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian, and New York Historical Society. It has appeared on media platforms more than 1,700 times, including Netflix, Nvidia, Intel, National Geographic, MoMA, the British Museum, and The Washington Post.



Julia Child in her apartment, photograph by Lynn Gilbert ©1978, New York City.

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2025

Seven honorable mentions in the 2025 Spider Awards. Judges hail from venerable institutions such as, the Tate Modern, The Serpentine Gallery, Gallery EIGEN + ART, Sotheby's, and more.



Siena award: Remarkable artwork.



PDN Award Winner — Objects of Desire International Photography Contest

THROCKMORTON FINE ART, INC

Throckmorton Art Gallery, NYC

ILON ART GALLERY

Elon Art Gallery, NYC

National Gallery of Art

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC



The New York Historical Museum



The Smart Museum, University of Chicago



The Museum of Queens College

Sarah Lawrence College Bronxville New York 2025

Concrete Jungle New York, New York 2024

School of Visual Arts, New York 2021

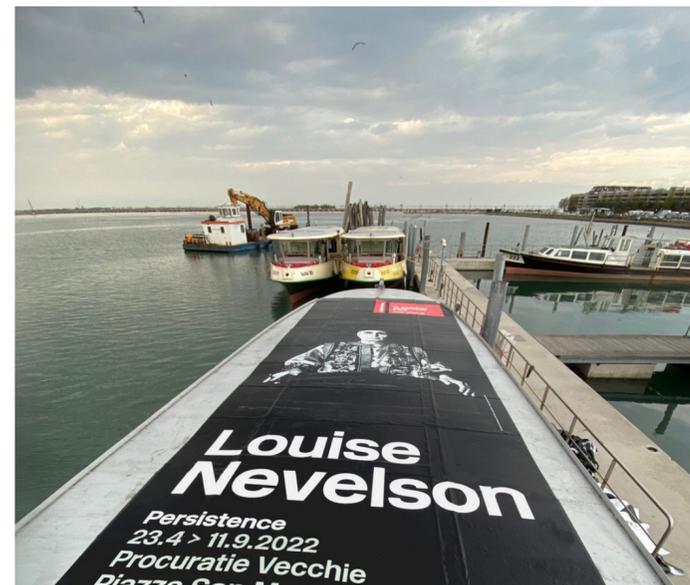
Pratt Institute Brooklyn, New York 2021

APAG (American Photography Archives Group) NYC 2021

Nichibeï New York City 2016

Godwin-Ternbach Museum Queens, New York 2015

Institute of Classical Architecture & Art San Antonio, Texas 2015



Nevelson portrait became "a symbol for the 2022 Venice Biennale"...



Lynn with Louise Nevelson's Grand Daughter Maria Nevelson at the Biennale.

ARTnews

Gilbert's image of Nevelson has become something of a symbol for this year's Biennale, which, for the first time in the event's 127-year history, consists of over 90 percent of artists identify as female or gender-nonconforming.



Iconic Women Portraits featured in WaPo