



For Immediate Release

In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson
An Intimate Portrait of a Baseball Legend
Opens January 31, 2019—Robinson's 100th Birthday

Press Preview: Tuesday, January 29, 10am—12pm



Never-before-seen photographs of the barrier-breaking athlete and icon

(New York, NY – Dec 10, 2018) In 1947 Jackie Robinson (1919-1972) made history when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first African-American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era. Opening on January 31—Robinson's 100th birthday—***In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson: An Intimate Portrait of a Baseball Legend*** will feature 32 photographs (most of them never published),

originally shot for *Look* magazine; rare home movies of the Robinson family; and memorabilia related to Robinson's career. The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Jackie Robinson Foundation and launches the Foundation's yearlong, national Jackie Robinson Centennial Celebration, which culminates in the opening of the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City in December 2019.

"We are honored to partner with the Jackie Robinson Museum in celebrating the legacy of a true American icon," said Whitney Donhauser, Ronay Menschel Director and President of the Museum of the City of New York. "Robinson's trailblazing years as a Brooklyn Dodger captivated the country and these photographs offer an intimate glimpse of a defining period in American sports history."

Della Britton, president and CEO of the Jackie Robinson Foundation remarked, "We are thrilled to begin our year-long celebration with this showcase of photographic treasures that depict Jackie Robinson's life and career in New York. And the beautiful Museum of the City of New York is a fitting venue, as it was in this city that our namesake paved a way for a more inclusive America."

Robinson spent only one season with the Negro Leagues' Kansas City Monarchs before he was recruited by Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey. Looking to turn the tide of the much-maligned team, Rickey chose Robinson not only for his talent, but for his demeanor and courage. From the moment Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field on April 15, 1947, he endured jeers and even physical threats from fellow players, ticket buyers, and a segregated American public.

Despite adversity, Robinson ended his first season as the winner of Major League Baseball's inaugural "Rookie of the Year" award. He was named the National League's Most Valuable Player two years later and went on to win six pennants in his 10 seasons with the Dodgers. Following his retirement in 1957, Robinson continued to break barriers as a vice president of Chock full o'Nuts, becoming the first African American officer of a major national corporation. He remained dedicated to civil rights and the advancement of African Americans in industry and commerce, serving on the board of the NAACP and co-founding the Freedom National Bank in Harlem, which became one of the largest black-owned banks in the country.

The exhibition features photographs taken on assignment by *Look* staff photographers Kenneth Eide and Frank Bauman. Robinson was a frequent face in *Look*, where he contributed three autobiographical essays (including 1955's "Now I Know Why They Boo Me!") and announced his retirement. Most of the black-and-white images in the exhibition were never published in the magazine and show Robinson on the field and in the clubhouse with his teammates, as well as at home with his family. Though Robinson encountered withering racism during his career, the photographs reveal a hard-fought sense of comity, joy, and self-assurance from a man whose contributions extended far beyond the field.

The exhibition is curated by Sean Corcoran, Museum Curator of Prints and Photographs, with co-curator Susan Gail Johnson.

The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Jackie Robinson Museum, opening in 2019.

In partnership with LinkNYC, photographs from the exhibition will appear on digital display kiosks throughout the city. Images will run from January 31 through February 28, honoring Robinson's centennial and Black History Month.

Made possible in part by The New Network Fund, supported by  JL Greene

About the Museum of the City of New York

The Museum of the City of New York fosters understanding of the distinctive nature of urban life in the world's most influential metropolis. It engages visitors by celebrating, documenting, and interpreting the city's past, present, and future. To connect with the Museum on social media, follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @MuseumofCityNY and visit our Facebook page at Facebook.com/MuseumofCityNY. For more information please visit www.mcny.org.

About the Jackie Robinson Foundation

For 45 years, the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) has continued Robinson's commitment to equal opportunity by addressing the achievement gap in higher education, providing generous scholarship grants and comprehensive support services to minority students attending colleges throughout the country. Expanding its mission of education and Robinson's rich legacy, the Foundation will open the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City in December 2019 to chronicle Robinson's storied athletic career and his long-lasting impact across society. For more information, visit www.jackierobinson.org.

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