



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



Jackie Robinson, 1949. Photograph by Frank Bauman for *Look* magazine.
Museum of the City of New York

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

(New York, NY—January 29, 2019) *In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson: An Intimate Portrait of a Baseball Legend*, opening at the Museum of the City of New York on January 31—Robinson's 100th birthday—

will feature 32 photographs originally shot for *Look* magazine (most of them never published), as well as 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 will culminate in the opening of the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City in December 2019. ***In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson*** will be on view at the Museum of the City of New York through September 15, 2019.

"We are honored to partner with the Jackie Robinson Foundation 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 yearlong 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."

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. 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 that are part of the extensive *Look* Collection in the Museum of the City of New York's permanent collection. 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.

This exhibition is a co-presentation of the Museum of the City of New York and the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson is made possible in part by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation and The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, with additional support provided by Martin L. Edelman, Esq; Gregg A. Gonsalves; and Peter O'Malley.

In partnership with LinkNYC, photographs from the exhibition will appear on digital display kiosks throughout the city 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

Public and Education Programs

In conjunction with the exhibition, an array of Public, Family, and Education Programs have been organized. They include the following and will be updated at <https://www.mcnyc.org/events/all>:

Educator Evening: Jackie Robinson

Thursday, February 7, 4:30pm–6:00pm
Free; registration required

Free curator-led tour of [*In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson: An Intimate Portrait of a Baseball Legend*](#) which is open to educators and friends. This program provides 1 CTLE hour.

Program Schedule:

4:30-5:00 pm - Gallery open for viewing
5:00-6:00 pm - Guided gallery tour with Curator
6:00-6:10 pm - CTLE forms distributed

Educator Day: Breaking Boundaries

Sunday, February 10, 9:00am—4:00pm
Free; registration required

A free day for educators full of hands-on workshops, engaging gallery experiences, and rich discussions around the theme *Breaking Boundaries*. New York has always been in the spotlight for its bold thinkers with brave new ideas, yet its very diversity highlights the social disparities that challenge our world. In this program, inspired by [*In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson*](#) and [*Activist New York*](#), explore stories of how New Yorkers have broken boundaries to challenge social inequalities. Take a tour of the exhibitions and learn about Jackie Robinson's personal commitment to social justice in his career and beyond. Engage in workshops to examine how learning these histories can inspire students to think about current day possibilities for change. Leave with exciting ideas and resources for your classroom. Participation in this program provides 5 hours of CTLE credit.

Meet the Curators: Sean Corcoran, Curator of Prints and Photographs

Tuesday, February 12, 4:00pm—5:00pm
\$40 General Admission | \$35 Museum Members

As part of the new "Meet the Curators" tour series, join Sean Corcoran, Curator of Prints and Photographs, as he guides you through [*In the Dugout with Jackie Robinson: An Intimate Portrait of a Baseball Legend*](#). A truly behind-the-scenes experience. Space is limited to 25 participants and advance registration is suggested.

Jackie Robinson Family Day

Tuesday, February 19, 11:00am—2:00pm

Free with Museum admission

Learn about Jackie Robinson's career as the first African American to play in Major League Baseball. Consider challenges and successes he faced during his career, then design a paper baseball to take home.

Athletes to Activists: Politics of the Playing Field

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30pm—8:30pm

\$15 & up | \$10 for Museum Members

When Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, he became first black major league baseball player of the modern era—and paved the way for athletes to serve as harbingers of social change. Twenty years later, at the 1968 Olympic Games, track and field star **John Carlos** raised his fist in silent protest of American racial and economic injustice, resulting not only in a world-famous photograph, but also his suspension from the U.S. Olympic Team. Now, decades after Robinson first stepped on the field and Carlos risked his career for a cause, professional athletes are using their visibility to advocate for what they believe in. Join Carlos for a conversation with ESPN's **Howard Bryant** about the complex relationship between black athletes and activism, and the intertwined worlds of sports and politics.

Jackie Robinson: The Personal and Political

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30pm

Journalist Budd Mishkin and Jonathan Eig, author of *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*, reflect on the unlikely hero who helped to launch the modern civil rights era.

Public Programs inspired by this exhibition are made possible in part by Jim Hanley & Taconic Builders, and are co-presented with the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

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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