

PRESS RELEASE

# “MY AFFAIR WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN”

An exhibition of Lincoln Portraits by Roz Dimon  
coming to Floyd Memorial Library, Greenport, New York  
October 14, 2022 – January 8, 2023



**Greenport, New York (September 29, 2022)** – Floyd Memorial Library is pleased to present “My Affair with Abraham Lincoln,” an exhibition of Lincoln portraits by artist Roz Dimon.

Dimon, who lives on Shelter Island, describes the series as having “erupted as a spontaneous response to events in the United States between November 2020 and February 2021; a political climate that one could argue is still ongoing.” The Lincoln portraits are insightful reflections of these fraught times and generators of crucial social, political, and cultural discourse. Moreover, as Dimon notes, “it’s interesting that everyone claims Lincoln :)”

Drawn in a variety of media on 19 x 13" rag paper and framed in black, these works are inspired by Alexander Gardner’s iconic 1863 Lincoln photograph, a copy of which is included in the exhibition. Dimon describes how, on seeing this photo, she “fell in love with a face full of vision, suffering, steadfastness . . . a face offering multiple interpretations simultaneously . . . one that looked almost like a civil war battlefield itself. That was the beginning of my LINCOLN series.”

Each portrait features a title particular to the day it was drawn and includes varying abstract interpretations of Abe's classic bow tie. The original 19 drawings previewed in summer 2021 at Shelter Island Public Library's Tent Week, where they inspired terrific public debate.

Five more works have since been added to the series. Four of these use QR code interaction (bring your cell phones!) to invite the viewer into an animated experience of a Lincoln portrait being drawn, one mark at a time. In Dimon's words, this "inclusion of digital media brings the man to our age, and our age to the man in a way that speaks distinctly to this time."

A final portrait was created this past summer of Mary Todd Lincoln. A salute to her and to women everywhere whose work and endurance often goes unrecognized, it is titled "I Had No One."

In line with the exhibition's spirit of civil discourse, Floyd Memorial Library will host a number of free public events in conjunction with "My Affair with Abraham Lincoln." This includes an opening reception with the artist on Friday, October 14, 6–8 pm. On Friday, October 28 at 6 pm Margaret Hoover, host of PBS's *Firing Line*, will interview John Avlon, CNN senior political analyst and author of this year's *Lincoln and the Fight for Peace*. Other events, including for younger members of the community, are to be announced. Dimon says, "I'm very excited to have this series travel to Floyd Memorial Library and I look forward to engaging further with those who attend the exhibition and its related events."

### **Artist's Bio**

Roz Dimon is a painter and interfaith minister who has worked with digital media since 1984. In the 1990s, she led new media initiatives for corporations at the World Trade Center while exhibiting her art from Soho to Japan.

Post 9/11, studies in medieval iconography inspired her to create art that communicates more deeply with others. These works are in various collections, including the 9/11 Memorial Museum, the Children's Museum of the East End, and Shelter Island Historical Society's Havens House. Dimon is a member of the Carter Burden Gallery in New York City and lives with her husband James Dawson on Shelter Island.

### **"MY AFFAIR WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN"**

October 14, 2022 – January 8, 2023

#### **Opening Reception with the Artist**

Friday, October 14, 6 – 8 pm

#### **Margaret Hoover Interview with John Avlon**

Friday, October 28, 6 pm

#### **Other events to be announced**

For more information, please contact: On the exhibition: Sally Grant, Art Exhibits Curator, Email: [sally@floydmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:sally@floydmemoriallibrary.org); Tel: 347 277 8692. On related events: Janet Olinkiewicz, Adult Services Coordinator, Email: [janet@floydmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:janet@floydmemoriallibrary.org); Tel: 631 477 0660.

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