

The Making of an Icon: Walter looss and Sports Photography  
Exhibition Summary  
Housatonic Museum of Art  
March 6, 2024 – August 2, 2024

**Overview**

Competitive sports are one of the most enduring aspects of human culture. Since time immemorial around the world, people have been engaging in physical competitions, whether running, wrestling, or ball games. Artists have also been documenting these feats of strengths in sculpture, drawings, etc. to honor the person and spread the word of their achievements. These visual markers coupled with written and oral stories create a mythos around the celebrated athlete, whether the discus thrower of Myron or the ball-playing Hero Twins of the Maya.

The photographs of highly acclaimed sports photographer Walter looss are a modern manifestation of this human drive to capture the moment and proliferate the stories through his photographs. And yet, this exhibition takes a deep dive into the photographs and explores nine humanities-related themes that allow for a reflection upon activism, representation, and identity. For example, the section "Art and Agency: Athletes as Activists," explores how athletes impact the world both on and off the court. Whether participating in the Civil Rights Movement or becoming a spokesman for AIDS/HIV awareness, athletes have taken a stand through their leadership, and have inspired others to do the same.

In 2019, HMA received a gift of 141 photographs by Walter looss, a selection of which is in the exhibition. His photographs represent the only sports-related collection at the HMA, which is largely focused on modern and contemporary art. These images capture the highs and lows of athletic performance, from moments of victory and celebration to those of defeat and reckoning. The photographs convey the full range of human emotion in a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, football, tennis, golf, boxing, and many others. But perhaps most importantly, these images ask a compelling set of questions about photography's ability to tell sports stories in an aesthetically powerful way. How does the composition and formal characteristics of a photograph propel the narrative forward? What is the role of photography in creating icons like Michael Jordan, and also reproducing iconic moments like Dwight Clark's Catch from Joe Montana? When teammates or rivals are photographed together, how does the camera capture the dynamics of the human relationship?

After visiting this exhibition, participants will have a more complete understanding of photography's role in creating sports icons. Moving beyond the purely celebratory, the exhibition delves into deeper questions of individual and group identity, critical controversies, and collective memory-making. Visitors will consider how the wide-spread reproduction of photographs contributed to the making of an icon. Through a combination of thoughtful curation and accessible texts, the exhibition threads the needle between considering photography as an art form and as a social document.

The Housatonic Museum of Art is thrilled to partner with Interpreting Sports, a consultancy dedicated to re-centering the international sports conversation around empathy, balanced

humanity, and authentic connection. The museum is working with their co-founders and principal consultants, Kathryn Leann Harris and Douglas Stark, who are also co-editors on the book, *Interpreting Sports at Museums and Historic Sites*. From the early conceptualization of the project, the HMA has been engaged with Harris and Stark, including attending the NEMA day-long workshop, “[Interpreting Sports - Cultural Relevance within the Games](#)” and ongoing Sports Community of Practice meetings. Harris and Stark assisted with the development of the content and storyline, including conducting research, selecting images, writing interpretive texts, framing the argument, and sourcing additional artifacts. They will also played a key role in developing public programs that foster greater community engagement.

### **Project Team**

#### ***Walter looss, World Renowned Sports Photographer, and Bjorn looss***

Walter looss and his son Bjorn looss were important partners in making this exhibition possible. They provided invaluable information and resources, and Walter looss participated in a virtual interview with one of the guest curators, Kathryn Leann Harris.

Dubbed “the Rembrandt of sports photography”, looss has defined the iconic images of athletes from the 1960s to today. looss is gaining recognition through a series of large scale retrospectives at museums like the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles (2009), the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in Connecticut (2019-2020), and at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. in 2009. The HMA joins the ranks of these illustrious museums to recognize his work, and this exhibition also serves as a point of departure for larger discussions about the role of photography in capturing the humanity of athletes.

#### ***Kathryn Leann Harris, Founder and CEO, Interpreting Sports***

Kathryn Leann Harris is a writer and public historian whose work examines the influence of commemoration practices, specializing in Western societies’ public exhibitions and discourse relating to sports. She received a B.A. in History and English from the University of Mississippi and an M.A. in Public History from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Professional experience includes positions at the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, International Tennis Hall of Fame, and Adidas History Management Department in Nuremberg, Germany.

#### ***Douglas Stark, Consultant, Interpreting Sports***

Douglas Stark focuses on making history more engaging, relevant, and accessible to a diverse audience. His experience includes content and exhibition development, branding and messaging, and audience engagement. He served as museum director at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island for thirteen years. He earned an MA in American history with dual certification in Museum Studies, and holds an MBA with a concentration in nonprofit management from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

#### ***Charlotte Lefland, Collections Manager, Housatonic Museum of Art***

Charlotte Lefland received her MA in museum studies from Johns Hopkins University in 2017. At the consulting firm Museum & Collector Resource, she worked on projects for the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, Boston, Massachusetts; the Longyear Museum, Brookline; and the Lynn Museum & Historical Society, Lynn. Charlotte was the Senior Curatorial Assistant in the Prints & Drawings collection at the Yale Center for British Art from 2017-2022, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the Study Room and the collection. She has been at the HMA since December 2023 and has managed an IMLS grant as well as the installation of several exhibitions in her 10-month tenure.

***Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye, PhD, Director, Housatonic Museum of Art***

Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye is the Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art (HMA) at CT State Housatonic in Bridgeport, CT. With a collection of over 7,000 artworks, the HMA is one of the most important community college art museums in the country. Prior to leading the HMA, she has worked at a variety of museums and organizations, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Yale Center for British Art, and the Yale University Art Gallery. She received her PhD in Art History from the University of Southern California.

**Partners and Supporters**

**CT Humanities:** The Housatonic Museum of Art received a \$5,000 Quick Grant to support this project.

**Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Connecticut:** several loans for the exhibition were provided by the collection of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum.

**New England Museum Association (NEMA):** The HMA and NEMA are co-organizing a closing celebration for the exhibition on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. Participants will tour the exhibit with guest curators from Interpreting Sports, learn how to create socially responsible and culturally relevant sports content, engage in a "talk-back" dialogue about the exhibit, and enjoy a musical activation of the space and afternoon reception. Organized by NEMA's College and University Museums Professional Affinity Gathering and the Sports Community of Practice. Co-sponsored by Connecticut League of Museums. [Click here for more information.](#)

# The Making of an Icon: Walter Iouss and Sports Photography Installation Photographs

Credit line: Brandon Smith, Whiskey & Oxfords





THE MAKING OF AN ICON:  
WALTER IOOSS AND SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

# PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All events are free and open to the public.  
Register using the QR code or  
[https://bit.ly/HMA\\_Icon\\_Programs](https://bit.ly/HMA_Icon_Programs)

203-332-5052 [hello@housatonicmuseum.org](mailto:hello@housatonicmuseum.org)



**Wednesday, March 27 from 12:30pm - 1:30pm**

**Lunch with Sportswriter Ivan Maisel**

In-Person and Zoom

See the exhibition through the eyes of Ivan Maisel, who has covered national college football since the 1980s. He worked for nearly two decades at ESPN and also at *Sports Illustrated*. Refreshments will be served; presenter attending in-person.

**Wednesday, April 10 from 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

**Conversation with Walter Iooss**

In-Person and Zoom

Join us for moderated discussion with Walter Iooss, and learn about his prolific career as one of the most acclaimed sports photographers in the world. Refreshments will be served; presenter attending over Zoom.

**Thursday, April 25 from 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

**Walter Iooss and the Evolution of Sports Media**

In-Person and Zoom

Dr. Adam Rugg will contextualize the work of Walter Iooss against both the shifting dynamics of the sports media landscape as well as the evolving ways in which athletes are covered and represented in media. Refreshments will be served; presenter attending in-person

INTERPRETING  
SPORTS

**CT STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**HOUSATONIC**

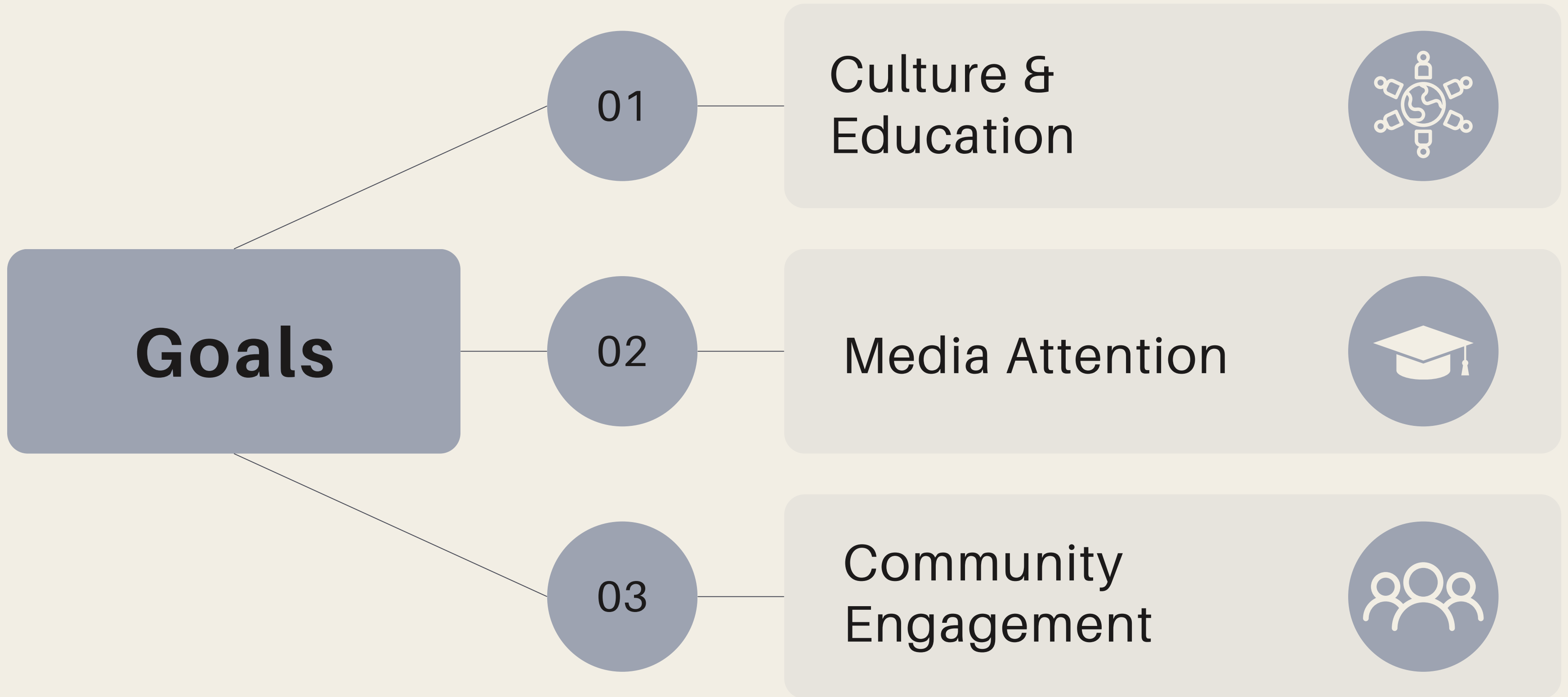
HOUSATONIC  
MUSEUM OF ART

cthumanities



**Housatonic Community College Foundation  
Collaboration with Housatonic Museum of Art  
Media Recap**

Our mission goal: to spotlight the Housatonic Community College Foundation and its partnership with the Housatonic Museum of Art promoting the new exhibit, and transforming it into a beacon for culture, education, and community engagement. Our strategy was designed to not only illuminate the exhibit's unique appeal but also to make it a focal point for media attention and public interest.





# What you need to know

We took a multifaceted approach, weaving together engaging narratives and various promotional tools to spark interest and draw attention. Our efforts, including a blend of announcements and digital content, were crafted to shine a spotlight on the foundation's partnership with a museum exhibit.



**HOUSATONIC  
MUSEUM OF ART**

For Immediate Release  
February 29th, 2024

For More Information:  
(203) 257-0031

**HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES NEW  
EXHIBITION: A FUSION OF ART, SPORTS GLORY, AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Making Of An Icon: Walter looss and Sports Photography

- WHO:** Walter looss legendary American Photographer; Dr. Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye, Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art (HMA); Kristy Jelenik, Executive Director of Housatonic College Community Foundation (HCCF); Judith Corprew, HCCF Board President and EVP Chief Compliance of Patriot Bank; Kathryn Leann Harris and Douglas Stark of Interpreting Sports, Curators; art enthusiasts, students, and community members.
- WHAT:** The Housatonic College Community Foundation is proud to announce that the Housatonic Museum of Art will unveil its latest exhibition, "The Making of an Icon: Walter looss and Sports Photography," from March 6 to August 2, 2024. Dive into the world of sports and photography with Walter looss, who is a well-known for his photography of iconic athletic champions. This vibrant showcase, curated by Kathryn Leann Harris and Douglas Stark, highlights the iconic work of Walter looss, capturing the essence of sports legends. Experience the power of athletic achievements and their triumphs through looss's lens. Supported by CT Humanities, this exhibition promises a unique blend of art, sports, the community and human spirit.
- WHEN:** Opening event on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 3:30pm-5:30pm.  
Tours at 4pm and 5pm.
- WHERE:** Burt Chernow Galleries  
Housatonic Museum of Art  
CT State Housatonic  
900 Lafayette Blvd Bridgeport, CT 06604

##

# Created Content

**HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART**

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**WHEN:** Opening event on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 3:30pm-5:30pm. Tours at 4pm and 5pm.

**WHERE:** Burt Chernow Galleries  
Housatonic Museum of Art  
CT State Housatonic  
900 Lafayette Blvd Bridgeport, CT 06604

##

**SAVE the DATE**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2024 @3:30PM**

**HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART**

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##

Our strategy was the creation of an advisory and a 'Save the Date' notice, designed to serve as a clarion call to media professionals and the community alike. These materials were crafted with precision, blending informative content with an inviting tone, ensuring that the exhibit's opening would be marked on calendars as a not-to-be-missed event.

They weren't your typical announcements, they are part of a proactive communication strategy. It wasn't about just sharing information; it was about engaging the audience, sparking curiosity, and building anticipation.

# Press impact



Visit Connecticut

<https://ctvisit.com> > events > openin...

## Opening Reception for The Making of an Icon: Walter looss and Sports Photography

900 Lafayette Blvd. Bridgeport CT, 06604.  
Map & Directions. Contact. (203) 332-5052 ·  
info.housatonicmuseum@gmail.com · book  
tickets now. Times. March 6, 2024.



CT Insider

<https://www.ctinsider.com> > events...

## HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES NEW EXHIBITION: Walter ...

HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART  
CELEBRATES NEW EXHIBITION: Walter  
looss and Sports Photography ; Courthouse  
O'Putnam 5K. 121 Main Street. 12:30PM ...



Connecticut Post

<https://www.ctpost.com> > events-c...

## Exhibitions events near Bridgeport Connecticut Magazine

Looking for Exhibitions events near  
Bridgeport? Find Exhibitions events in  
Bridgeport ... HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF  
ART CELEBRATES NEW EXHIBITION:  
Walter looss and ...

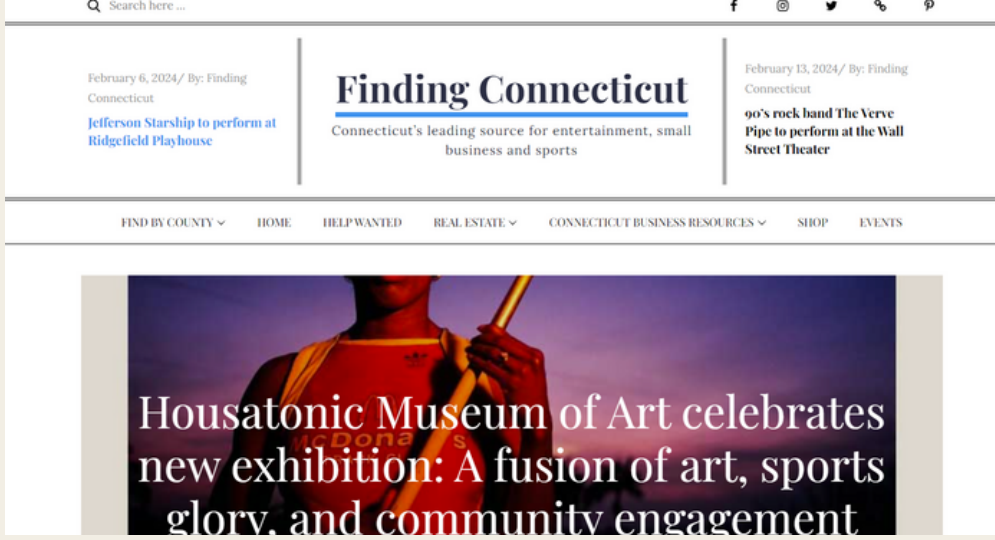


Our efforts yielded positive results, with our carefully crafted press release making its way to a range of platforms. This coverage helped extend our reach and shed light on the exhibit, encouraging a diverse audience to engage with the foundation's work. While the impact was noteworthy, it sets a foundation we aim to build upon, recognizing the potential for even greater achievements in the future.

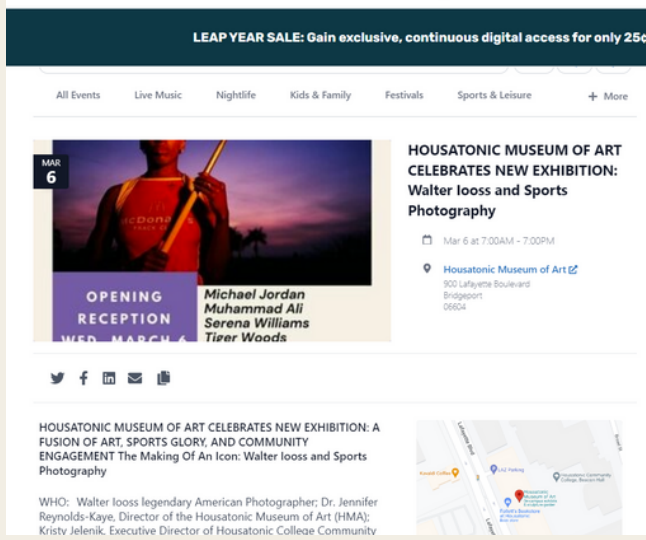
# Press Impact



Patch website for Bridgeport, CT. The page features a navigation menu with 'News Feed', 'Events', 'Local Businesses', and 'Classifieds'. A prominent article titled 'The Making of an Icon: Walter Ioss and Sports Photography' is displayed with a date badge for 'MAR 6' and a 'Subscribe' button.



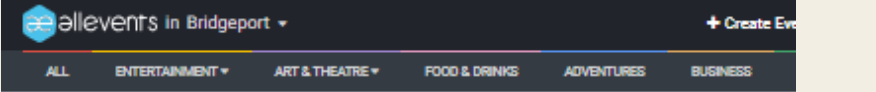
Finding Connecticut website. The page features a search bar and navigation links for 'HOME', 'HELP/WANTED', 'REAL ESTATE', 'CONNECTICUT BUSINESS RESOURCES', 'SHOP', and 'EVENTS'. A featured article titled 'Housatonic Museum of Art celebrates new exhibition: A fusion of art, sports glory, and community engagement' is displayed with a date badge for 'February 13, 2024'.



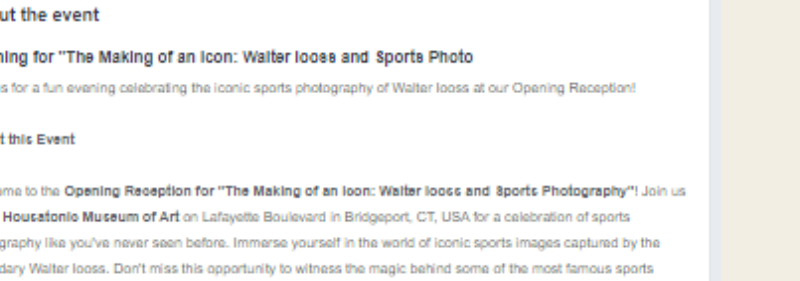
Eventbrite website listing for the Housatonic Museum of Art exhibition. The page includes a 'LEAP YEAR SALE' banner and a detailed event description: 'HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES NEW EXHIBITION: Walter Ioss and Sports Photography'. It also lists the opening reception details and the museum's location.



Facebook post from Visit Western CT. The post features a profile picture and a post image of a woman holding a spear. The text reads: 'The Making of an Icon: Walter Ioss and Sports Photography' at the Housatonic Museum of Art in Bridgeport, CT. The post includes a link to the museum's exhibition page and several hashtags: #CTvisit #VisitWesternCT #Photography #Artwork #Museum #BridgeportCT.



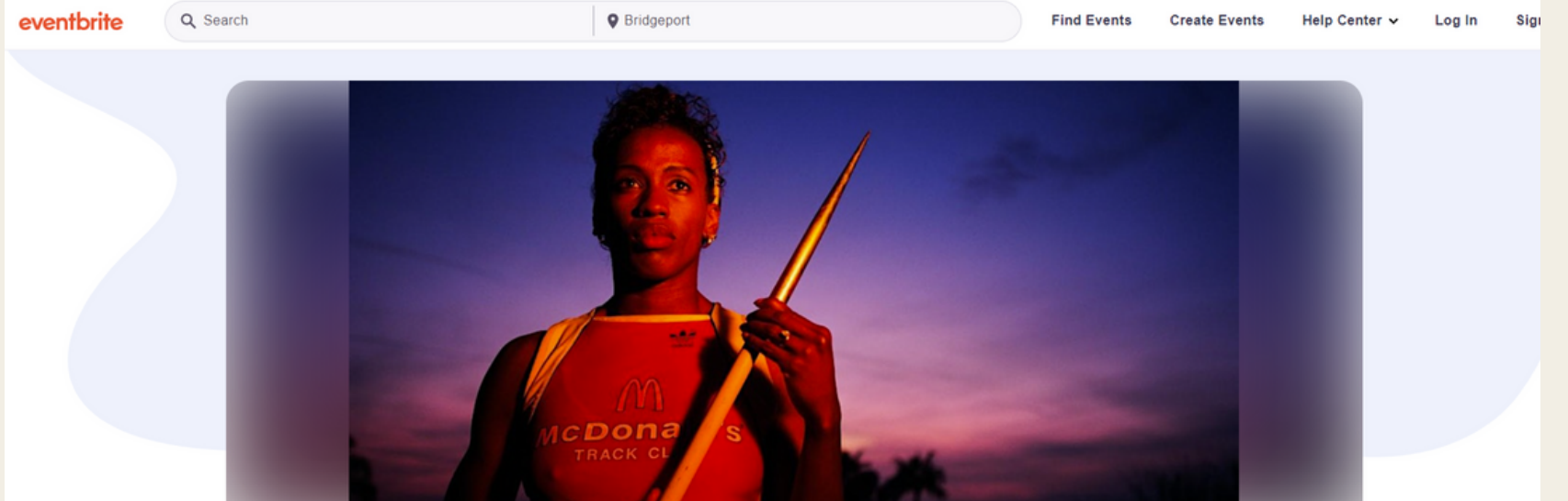
ellevents website navigation bar for Bridgeport. The bar includes a search bar and navigation links for 'ALL', 'ENTERTAINMENT', 'ART & THEATRE', 'FOOD & DRINKS', 'ADVENTURES', and 'BUSINESS'.



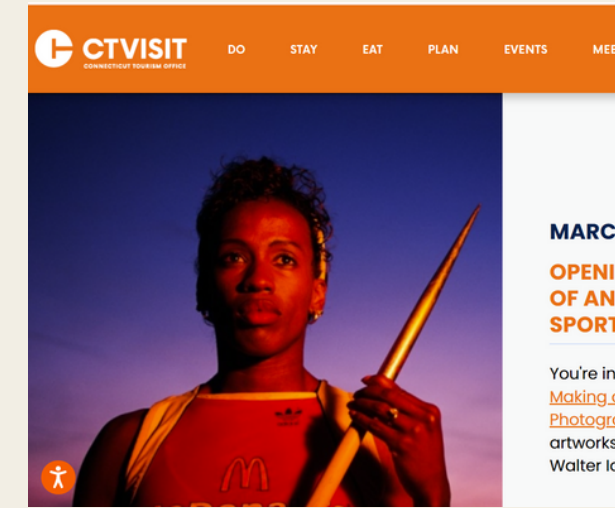
Eventbrite event page content for the Housatonic Museum of Art exhibition. The page includes a section titled 'About the event' and 'About this Event', providing details about the opening reception and the museum's location.



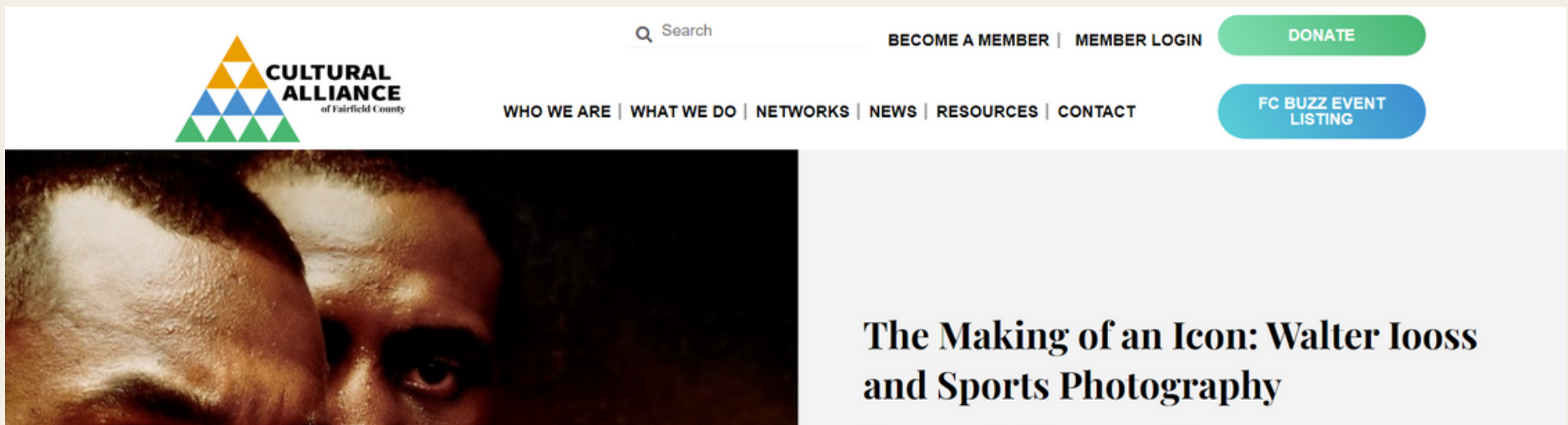
Eventbrite event page content for the Housatonic Museum of Art exhibition. The page includes a section titled 'HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATE EXHIBITION: A FUSION OF ART, SPORTS GLORY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT' and provides details about the opening reception and the museum's location.



Eventbrite event page content for the Housatonic Museum of Art exhibition. The page includes a large image of a woman holding a spear and a section titled 'HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES NEW EXHIBITION: A FUSION OF ART, SPORTS GLORY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT'.



CTVISIT website screenshot. The page features a navigation menu with 'DO', 'STAY', 'EAT', 'PLAN', 'EVENTS', and 'MEET'. A featured article titled 'MARC OPENING OF AN SPORT' is displayed with a date badge for 'MAR 6' and a 'Subscribe' button.



Cultural Alliance website screenshot. The page features a navigation menu with 'WHO WE ARE', 'WHAT WE DO', 'NETWORKS', 'NEWS', 'RESOURCES', and 'CONTACT'. A featured article titled 'The Making of an Icon: Walter Ioss and Sports Photography' is displayed with a date badge for 'February 13, 2024'.

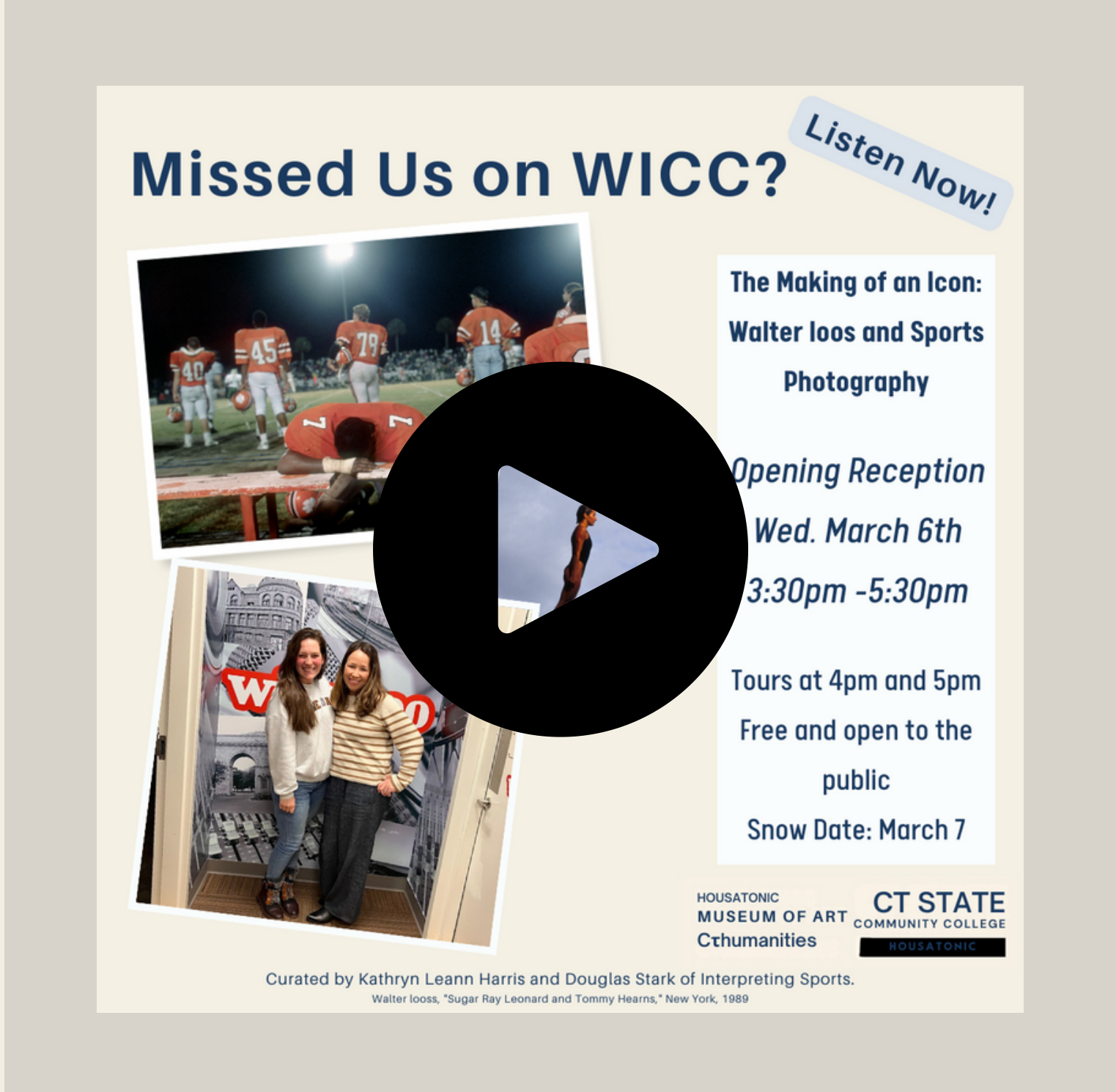
# Audio | Video

## WICC Interview

The WICC interview, showcased the Foundation while featuring the Museum Exhibit.

We transformed the interview into a shareable video for social media. This step wasn't just about broadening our reach; it was about connecting more intimately with our audience.

By making the interview accessible in this way, we turned it into a conversation starter, inviting people to dive deeper into the exhibit's story and the foundation's mission.



**Missed Us on WICC?** *Listen Now!*

**The Making of an Icon:  
Walter Ioss and Sports  
Photography**

**Opening Reception**  
**Wed. March 6th**  
**3:30pm -5:30pm**

Tours at 4pm and 5pm  
Free and open to the  
public

**Snow Date: March 7**

HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Cthumanities

CT STATE  
HOUSATONIC

Curated by Kathryn Leann Harris and Douglas Stark of Interpreting Sports.  
Walter Ioss, "Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns," New York, 1989

This partnership brought in new ideas and aimed to get more people interested and talking about HCCF and the HMA exhibit. Dinormous mixed traditional, social, and modern methods to get the word out.

Efforts included reaching out in various ways, from direct conversations, and event happenings, to online storytelling, aiming to make the exhibit noticeable. The goal was more about building a connection between the community and the foundation's partnership with the museum while drawing attendees.



# HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART

**For Immediate Release**  
February 19th, 2024

**For More Information:**  
(203) 257-0031

## **HOUSATONIC MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES NEW EXHIBITION: A FUSION OF ART, SPORTS GLORY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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CT State Housatonic  
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##



**Ali and Joe Frazier, Philadelphia, PA, 10/2/2003**

Object identifier: 4964

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**Ali, Berrien Springs, MI**

Object identifier: 4969

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**Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus at the Laurel Valley Golf Club,  
Ligonier, PA**

Object identifier: 4971

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**Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia, PA**

Object identifier: 4980

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**Blue Dunk, Michael Jordan**

Object identifier: 4982

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**Bob Gibson, Bloomington, WI**

Object identifier: 4984

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**Carl Yastrzenski World Series, Boston, MA.**

Object identifier: 4987

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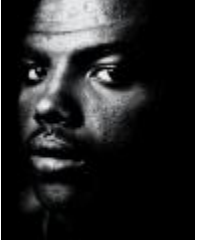




**The Catch- Dwight Clark from Joe Montana Candlestick Park, SF, CA**

Object identifier: 4963

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**Charles Barkley, NYC**

Object identifier: 4989

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**Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova, Wimbledon, London, 1982**

Object identifier: 4992

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**Chris Evert, US Open, Flushing Meadows, NY, 9/78**

Object identifier: 4994

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**Christiano Ronaldo, Manchester, England, 4/15/06**

Object identifier: 4995

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**Dave Winfield, Tampa, FL, 3/81**

Object identifier: 4999

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**Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera, Tampa, FL 3/07**

Object identifier: 5032

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**Earvin "Magic" Johnson, NYC, 12/2/1999**

Object identifier: 5060

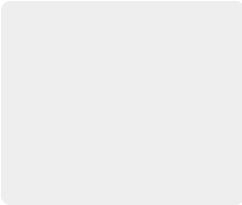
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**Edwin Moses Jumping Hurdle in Irvine, CA**

Object identifier: 5004

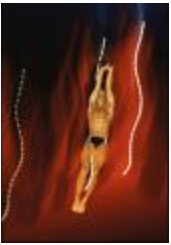
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**Frank Robinson, Baltimore, MD, 1966**

Object identifier: 5006.01

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**Greg Louganis, Mission Viego, CA**

Object identifier: 5008

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**Gymnast, L.A.**

Object identifier: 5010

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**Hank Aaron, West Plam Beach, FL., 3/69**

Object identifier: 5011

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**High School Football, Winter Park, FL**

Object identifier: 5029

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**Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Beverly Hills, CA**

Object identifier: 5030

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**Jim Brown, Cleveland, OH**

Object identifier: 5033

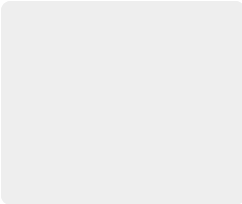
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**Joe Morgan and Mickey Rivers, 1975 World Series, Cincinnati, OH**

Object identifier: 5037

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**John Starks, Bronx, NY**

Object identifier: 5390

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**Johnny Unitas, Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, 12/26/70**

Object identifier: 5040

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**Julia Cruz, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 1/84**

Object identifier: 5041

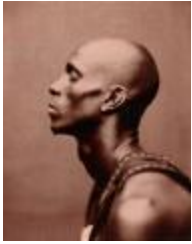
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**Julius Erving, Milwaukee, WI**

Object identifier: 5042

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**Kevin Garnett, Minneapolis, MN**

Object identifier: 5050



**Kevin Mitchell, San Francisco, CA**

Object identifier: 5051



**Lebron James, S.F., CA, 1/22/2009**

Object identifier: 5057



**Lou Brock, 1967 World Series at Boston**

Object identifier: 5058



**Martina Navratilova, U>S> Open, Flushing Meadows, NY, 9/81**

Object identifier: 5062



**The National Anthem, Wrigley Field, Chicago, ILL**

Object identifier: 5089



**Pam Shriver, US Open Flushing Meadows, NY 1978**

Object identifier: 5075



**Patrick Ewing and Bill Cartwright, NYC**

Object identifier: 5076



**Sandy Koufax, 1965 World Series, Game 7, LA vs Minnesota,  
10/14/65**

Object identifier: 5082

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**Serena Williams, Key Biscayne, FL**

Object identifier: 5083

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**Serena Willimas in Limo, Key Biscayne, FL. for Sports Illustrated**

Object identifier: 5084

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**Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, El Segundo, CA., 6/1/2001**

Object identifier: 5085

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**Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns, NYC**

Object identifier: 5086

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**Tiger Woods, Reunion, FL**

Object identifier: 5092

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**Tim Brown and Jerry Rice, Alameda, CA, 1996**

Object identifier: 5093

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**Walter Payton, Philadelphia, PA, 12/79**

Object identifier: 5102



**Willie Mays, Philadelphia, PA, 8/62**

**Object identifier:** 5103

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**Yogi and Whitey, Tampa, FL, 3/1/2001**

**Object identifier:** 5106

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**Yogi Berra, Fort Lauderdale, March 1984**

**Object identifier:** 5107

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<<TEXT FOR 40" X 40" INTRO PANEL>>

# THE MAKING OF AN ICON: WALTER IOOSS AND SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

March 6, 2024 – August 2, 2024

*The key to great sports photography is anticipation. You have to know the game and be able to predict where the action will be.*

- Walter looss

For more than sixty years, sports photographer Walter looss (b. 1943) has captured and defined America's sporting experience at the highest level. His work elevates sports movement into artistic compositions, encapsulating the human drive to suspend time and proliferate stories through images. looss uses his lens to look beyond the surface of accomplished athletes or pivotal sports moments, instead revealing the complex emotions and sheer power of competition. In transcending his subjects' celebrity and capturing their essence, looss developed trusted relationships with them. The images in this exhibition offer something unique and rare – an intimate glimpse into the athlete's coveted inner world: loneliness, aliveness, agency, competitiveness, camaraderie, and connectivity.

Organized around nine thematic sections, these images ask compelling questions about photography's ability to tell sports stories in an aesthetically powerful way. How do the composition and formal characteristics of a photograph propel the narrative forward? What is the role of photography in creating icons like Michael Jordan and reproducing iconic moments like Dwight Clark's "The Catch" from Joe Montana? When teammates or rivals are photographed together, how does the camera relay the dynamics of the human relationship? In the process of

immortalizing the iconic moments and athletes of our lifetime, looss himself has become iconic. These images chronicle the arc of his career, showcasing the athlete both on and off the field of play while revealing the essence of a sporting legend.

Guest curated by Kathryn Leann Harris and Douglas Stark of Interpreting Sports. Support provided by CT Humanities and the Housatonic Community College Foundation. Several loans are provided by the collection of Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Connecticut.





<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE ATHLETE

### **ART & AGENCY: ATHLETES AS ACTIVISTS**

***From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life.***

- Arthur Ashe, Tennis Player and Humanitarian

Walter looss witnessed some of the highest achieving athletes execute the most iconic sports moments in the second half of the twentieth century. In its most simple form, his job was to photographically capture their physically astounding feats. Yet, looss saw beyond athletic achievement, considering each player for what influenced them and how they inspired others. Playing the games was their job; their societal impact is their legacy. As a result of the pedestal on which they stand, successful athletes' voices carry further and resonate with people of all ages. When something matters to them, they can advocate for those who cannot. Through his lens, looss uncovered the emotions that motivated both the athlete and the advocate – their vulnerability, drive, passion, intensity, and heart.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE ATHLETE

# ONE SECOND OF GREATNESS: ICONIC MOMENTS IN SPORTS

*In sports photography, you're really trying to capture a moment. It's the peak action or the defining moment of a game or an event.*

- Walter looss

In a single millisecond, an athlete makes a thousand tiny decisions and movements that can make or break their success. A photographer's lens can only capture one, single moment. looss' work provides an instantaneous intersection between his lifetime effort and the athlete's. His images depict all sides of the game's greatest moments. Even in a still image, the incredible effort of high-powered movement and deep emotion radiates. looss' photographs encapsulate the satisfaction of hitting the sweet spot and clutching success in your hands. And he offers a view into both the thrill of victory and agony of defeat. It is the anticipation and high stakes that drive these moments to become and remain iconic – whether with global renown or in the hearts of a single town.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE ATHLETE

### LONELY AT THE TOP

*The life of an athlete does have to be lonely and you have to be focused on your craft and what you do.*

- Johnny Weir, American Olympic figure skater

At the intersection of their life's work and their greatest achievements, elite athletes are accompanied by their fellow players and surrounded by thousands, if not millions, of eyes watching their every move. Despite having a global audience, every move they make is simply their own. In fact, much of their career is never viewed by the public eye; they spend it training in near isolation. With each competitive movement, athletes have no one but themselves to rely upon and must trust that hours of isolated practice and preparation will transform into focused habitual action and sudden winning reflexes. There is, in fact, loneliness atop the great athletic ladder of success. Walter looss demonstrates this by using stark contrasting backdrops behind some of sports' highest and most recognizable achievers. The effect offers a glimpse into their inner lives and personal trajectory – a long path surrounded by adoring onlookers yet walked alone.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE ATHLETE

# WOMEN'S TENNIS: THE JOURNEY FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

*Women's tennis has always been the leader in women's sports, so we have a responsibility and an opportunity to help make this world a better place.*

- Billie Jean King, Tennis player and Women's Rights Pioneer

Women's tennis has been at the vanguard of the sporting landscape in championing equity. In the early 1970s, a series of events coalesced into a sports equality movement that is still ongoing. Tennis' "Original 9" included nine women's tennis players who broke away from professional tennis to form their own league and take a stand against pay inequity. In 1972, the United States Supreme Court passed Title IX mandating collegiate sports include women as equally as their male counterparts. The following year Billie Jean King founded the Women's Tennis Association and beat Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match.

With King at the forefront, women's tennis fought for equal prize money at the Grand Slams, Tennis' four major tournaments including the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. An earlier generation that included King, Pam Shriver, and Chris Evert passed the torch to Venus and Serena Williams whose efforts greatly expanded the role of women athletes as activists, business leaders, and sports franchise owners. The combined efforts of tennis' leading women over five decades launched a wider and ongoing conversation about equal rights and pay in all sports.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY

### **PLAYING IN LIVING COLOR:**

### **EXPERIENCING THE FULLNESS OF BEING ALIVE**

*The camera is an extension of yourself. You have to be in sync with the moment and the athlete to create the perfect image.*

- Walter looss

looss focuses on a single moment in time to convey the true essence of an athlete – either in motion or stationary. Whether he juxtaposes the athlete against a stark background, situates them within a broader geometric landscape, or incorporates bold and bright colors to enhance the imagery, looss creates a unique picture that tells a larger story. He reveals a sports figure's inner landscape and physical being – how their movement demonstrates the breadth and depth of their humanity. He achieves this unique perspective by positioning himself from inside a scoreboard or looking down on a swimmer. In so doing, looss' photographs reveal the relationship of the individual to his surroundings and how fields of play provide a space to perform and reveal personality.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY

### **INDIVIDUAL PORTRAITURE: WHEN THE MOVEMENT STOPS**

*Photography is about relationships. It's about how you feel about somebody, how they feel about you, and how you interact.*

- Walter looss

Developing close and trusting relationships with his subjects contributed to Walter looss' successful career. In his photographs, he aims for a realistic representation of the athletes and strives to reveal the personality of each subject. His artistic compositions, including dramatic lighting, positioning of the camera, background, and use of color, all combine into an intimate image that uncovers the soul. With his lens, looss gives us a glimpse into the thoughts and emotions the athlete faces when the action stops, and time slows down. These richly tonal black-and-white photographs encourage visitors to consider the interior life of the sitter through the lens of photographic portraiture. Photographed away from the bright lights of competition, roar of adoring fans, and 24-hour news cycle, these images unearth a different and unique perspective of each player. The athlete's intensity, competitiveness, introspection, joy, and innocence rise to the top, brought to the surface by their relationship with looss.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE POWER OF CONNECTION

# **BLACK BASEBALL STARS: ELEVATING THE AMERICAN PASTIME**

*Baseball in the Negro Leagues was a little bit rougher, a little bit sweeter, a little bit faster, a little bit cooler, and a little bit more fun than anything... in Major League Baseball.*

*- Joe Posnanski, Sports Journalist and Author*

When Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier on April 15, 1947, he shattered decades of racial discrimination in Major League Baseball where only white players were allowed to participate. His feat signaled the demise of the Negro Leagues, a league for Black ballplayers beginning in 1920. The 1950s were marked by social conformity and the game of baseball mirrored that in its lackluster play. In the ensuing decades, that narrative was disrupted by some of the game's greatest players – Black athletes who pushed the boundaries of how the game was perceived, played, documented, transformed, and ultimately remembered. Stars such as Willie Mays, Frank Robinson, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, and Joe Morgan brought flair, speed, and dynamism more associated with the Negro Leagues than its white counterpart. Collectively, as players, coaches, commentators, and community ambassadors, these individuals ushered in a new era in baseball while becoming icons of the American Pastime.

<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE POWER OF CONNECTION

### TEAMMATES

***The strength of the team is each member. The strength of each member is the team.***

*- Phil Jackson, 11-time NBA Champion Coach*

In team sports, there is no greater satisfaction than being part of the whole, playing with and for one another. The bond that exists between teammates is often difficult to explain to an outsider. It develops over the course of a season from a variety of places and experiences – games, locker room, practice, travel, and meals. Being a teammate requires sacrifice, support, communication, hard work, and belief. That sense of connecting over a shared experience lasts long after the season ends. In his compositions, looss conveys the essence of being a teammate. No matter the sport, these images capture the eternal bond that individuals share as teammates. From their poses, use of lighting, and choice of background, looss' photographs reveal the essential nature of the relationship surrounding these teammates – fun, seriousness, friendship, and competitiveness.



<<TEXT FOR 20" TALL X 14" WIDE SECTION PANELS>>

## THE POWER OF CONNECTION

### RIVALS

*We're mirrors of each other.*

- Magic Johnson, Los Angeles Lakers Point Guard, on Larry Bird, Boston Celtics Forward.

Rivals are often seen by the public as fierce enemies – two great entities who have risen to meet one another and compete, time and again, for the ultimate prize of their time. In reality, rivals connect more than they repel. Whether in victory or defeat, the athlete learns about themselves through competition with their rival. In preparation for the contest, they study their opponent, size them up, and refine their own athletic strategy to exploit the other's weakness. When coming face-to-face with a rival, one truly sees their own face reflected. Walter Ioss chose to depict rivals at their points of intersection – embracing, colliding, nourishing, posturing, and laughing. He highlights the inherent respect amongst them, their comprehensive understanding of each other's worlds and acknowledgement that their competition elevates them both.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*The Catch - Dwight Clark from Joe Montana, Candlestick Park, San Francisco, CA, 1982*

Archival pigment print

Collection of Lyman Allyn Art Museum,  
New London, Connecticut  
2017.10.2

With fifty-eight seconds remaining in the 1981 NFC Championship Game, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana threw a six-yard touchdown pass to Dwight Clark who made a leaping catch in the back of the endzone. The score helped the 49ers eke out a 28-27 win and a trip to the Super Bowl. "The Catch" graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and soon became one of the greatest plays and most recognizable photos in NFL history.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*John Starks, Bronx, NY, 1994*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Housatonic Community College  
Foundation  
2023.8.1

Soon after he signed his first NBA contract on October 1, 1990, John Starks became a mainstay on the New York Knicks. With the Knicks as title contenders in the 1990s, Starks was the spark plug. His fiery and intense personality electrified the Madison Square Garden crowd, never more so than "The Dunk" when he threw one down over both Chicago's Horace Grant and Michael Jordan in the 1993 Eastern Conference Finals. Since his retirement, Starks has been actively involved in the community and is passionate about helping youth through scholarships and education.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Ali, Berrien Springs, MI, 1996*  
Archival pigment print

Collection of Lyman Allyn Art Museum,  
New London, Connecticut  
2017.12.47

Regarded as the greatest heavyweight fighter of all time, Muhammad Ali's impact transcended boxing. In the ring, he had legendary battles with Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier, and George Foreman. Out of the ring, he was a social activist, champion of Black Power and Black Pride, philanthropist, and peace advocate. He protested the Vietnam War by refusing to be inducted as a soldier, a stance for which he lost his part of his career and was stripped of his championships. looss' photographic strategy captured his vulnerability and childlike spirit, which stood as a juxtaposition from the larger-than-life persona he portrayed as a competitor.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*LeBron James, San Francisco, CA, 2009*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.147

LeBron James first graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated* as a junior in high school and soon after went directly to the NBA. He has since become the face of the league for the past twenty seasons. As the NBA's All Time Leading Scorer, a four-time champion, and owner of a host of other records, James has entered the pantheon as one of the greatest players of all time. Off the court, he is a strong advocate for racial justice, most recently responding to the murder of George Floyd by participating in the formation of "More Than a Vote," a group dedicated to mobilizing African American voters and fighting voter suppression.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*High School Football, Winter Park, FL,*  
1987

Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.119

While covering a story about the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, Walter looss chose to photograph a small high school football team playing under the Friday night lights. His message resounded clearly - the agony of defeat touches the athlete at every stage of their playing career. Losing the “big game” crushes a teenager just as losing the Super Bowl devastates a world class athlete at the top of their game.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Martina Navratilova, U.S. Open, Flushing Meadows, NY,* 1981

Archival pigment print

Collection of Lyman Allyn Art Museum,  
New London, Connecticut  
2017.12.63

Regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time, Martina Navratilova was influential in the surging popularity of women’s tennis in the 1970s and 1980s. Her all-around game netted her fifty-nine major titles as a singles, doubles, and mixed doubles player. As one of the first openly gay athletes, Navratilova has been an advocate for equal rights, and someone who championed greater dialogue on issues of gender and sexuality.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Serena Williams in Limo, Key Biscayne, FL, for Sports Illustrated, 2005*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.174

Along with her sister Venus, Serena Williams revolutionized tennis with her powerful ground strokes, strength of serve, and colorful fashion styles. Her impact extends beyond the twenty-three Grand Slam singles titles she won. Serena Williams reimagined the role of a Black female athlete as an owner, entrepreneur, fashion designer, civil rights advocate, investor, and ambassador.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Julius Erving, Milwaukee, WI, 1981*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.132

Known as “Dr. J”, Julius Erving transcended the game with his ability not only to play above the rim, but also to add individual expression to his movements with his spins, layups, and dunks. An influential figure in basketball, Erving won championships in both the ABA and NBA and became known as “The Doctor.” With his flashy style on and off the court, Dr. J represented basketball culture during the 1970s and made it cool.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Johnny Unitas, Memorial Stadium,  
Baltimore, 1970*  
Archival pigment print

Collection of Lyman Allyn Art Museum,  
New London, Connecticut  
2017.13.106

One in a long line of extraordinary quarterbacks from Western Pennsylvania, Johnny Unitas had an immeasurable impact on professional football during the 1950s. His greatest achievement was when he led the Baltimore Colts to a come-from-behind victory over the New York Giants in the 1958 NFL Championship Game before a nationally televised audience. His feats set the standards for future quarterbacks and caught the attention of a young Walter looss, who still reveres Unitas as his childhood hero.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Dave Winfield, Tampa, FL, 1981*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.89

Several months prior to 1981 Spring Training, the New York Yankees signed Dave Winfield to the largest contract in Major League Baseball history. In his first season, Winfield led the Yankees to a World Series appearance and came to define the Bronx Bombers during the 1980s. A tremendous athlete who was drafted by four different professional sports leagues, Winfield eventually became a baseball Hall of Famer in 2001.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Greg Louganis, Mission Viejo, CA, 1984*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.98

Regarded as the greatest American diver, Greg Louganis rose to prominence at the 1984 and 1988 Summer Olympics where he swept diving events both times. Months prior to the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Louganis tested positive for the HIV virus. During the springboard competition, he hit his head, requiring several stitches. Nonetheless he emerged as a victor and won the Gold Medal. After retiring from professional diving, he dedicated his life to advocating for the AIDS community.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Charles Barkley, NYC, 1988*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.79

An undersized power forward, Charles Barkley more than compensated with hustle and determination to become one of basketball's greatest rebounders for the Philadelphia 76ers, Phoenix Suns, and the Houston Rockets. His larger-than-life personality and frank style have made him one of the game's most popular and entertaining commentators for the NBA on TNT and CBS Sports since retirement. Barkley is known for speaking his mind. In this portrait, we see him in rare form - with intrigue in his eyes, leaving the viewer asking what he must be thinking.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Earvin "Magic" Johnson, NYC, 1999*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.150

Magic Johnson, with his wide smile, uncanny court vision, and extraordinary passing ability, brought excitement and flair to basketball. As the catalyst for the "Showtime" Los Angeles Lakers of the 1980s, Magic redefined the big point guard while leading the Lakers to five championships. He retired suddenly in 1991 when he tested positive for HIV and later returned after a four-year hiatus, catapulting him into becoming a face for surviving and living with the disease. Since retirement, Magic has become one of the most successful Black businessmen with a large portfolio that includes sports ownership.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Jim Rice, Fenway Park, Boston, MA, 1978*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.124

For more than fifty years, the Boston Red Sox had three of the greatest left fielders in Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, and Jim Rice, all of whom became members of the Baseball Hall of Fame. An intense competitor, Rice played the Green Monster brilliantly while also hitting more than 300 home runs and winning the 1978 American League Most Valuable Player Award. Since retirement, Rice has become a popular in-studio commentator of Red Sox games while being actively engaged in the community.



**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Bob Gibson, Bloomington, WI, 1965*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.74

Striking an intimidating pose on the mound, St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Bob Gibson dominated during the socially turbulent 1960s. A two-time World Series winner, Gibson won 251 games, recorded more than 3,000 strikeouts, and in 1968 posted an unfathomable 1.12 ERA and 268 strikeouts. The following year, Major League Baseball, in the ultimate compliment, lowered the pitcher's mound.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Lou Brock, 1967 World Series, St. Louis at Fenway Park, Boston, 1967*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.148

Known for his speed on the base paths, Lou Brock was a key player as the St. Louis Cardinals won two World Series titles in the 1960s. When he played against the Boston Red Sox in the 1967 World Series, all of Brock's talents were on display as he hit for a .414 average, scored eight runs, and stole seven bases. His stolen base record stood for fourteen years until it was eventually eclipsed by Rickey Henderson in 1991.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Yogi and Whitey, Tampa, FL, 2001*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.196

During the 1950s, when the New York Yankees were the embodiment of baseball for a postwar generation, Yogi Berra and Whitey Ford epitomized that standard of excellence. As batterymates (pitcher and catcher), friends, and teammates, Berra and Whitey continued to revel in each other's company, even in later years, still exuding the same joy as the boys of summer.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Patrick Ewing and Bill Cartwright, NYC, 1985*  
Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.166

For three seasons in the mid-1980s, Patrick Ewing and Bill Cartwright were teammates on the New York Knicks. As "Twin Towers" in the paint, these seven-footers reshaped the Knicks frontline, standing unified, literally, and figuratively, and repositioned the Knicks as a legitimate NBA contender. When Cartwright later joined Chicago, the teammates became adversaries in the Eastern Conference.

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus at  
Laurel Valley Golf Club, Ligonier, PA,  
1965*

Archival pigment print

Gift of Summit Art Advisory, LLC  
2019.15.61

In the 1960s, the golf rivalry between Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus came to define an era of fierce sporting rivals that also included Muhammad Ali versus Joe Frazier and Bill Russell versus Wilt Chamberlain. Their competitiveness on the links continued in the world of business and golf course design. In response to the news of Palmer's death, Nicklaus had this to say about their relationship, "We were great competitors, who loved competing against each other, but we were always great friends along the way. Arnold always had my back, and I had his. We were always there for each other. That never changed."

**Walter looss**

American (b. 1943)

*Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova,  
Wimbledon, London, 1982*  
Archival pigment print

Collection of Lyman Allyn Art Museum,  
New London, Connecticut  
2017.13.95

Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova formed not only the greatest rivalry in tennis history but quite possibly in all sports. Between 1973 and 1988, they faced each other an extraordinary eighty times, sixty of which were in finals of tournaments. Since their days as fierce rivalries, they have become cherished friends, commentators, cancer survivors, and now advocates together in opposition to the WTA Tour Finals being hosted in Saudi Arabia. Until 2003, it was standard tradition at Wimbledon for women to kneel before British royalty, which is how Evert and Navratilova are pictured here.