



**Media only:** Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494  
**Media website:** [americanart.si.edu/pr](http://americanart.si.edu/pr)  
**Media preview:** Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012; 10 a.m. - noon

Dec. 15, 2011

## Fact Sheet “Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage”

### Exhibition

“Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage”  
Jan. 20, 2012 – May 20, 2012

### Where

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets N.W.

### Description

“Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage” charts a new direction for one of America’s best-known living photographers. Unlike her staged and carefully lit portraits made on assignment for magazines and advertising clients, the photographs in this exhibition were taken simply because Leibovitz was moved by the subject. The images speak in a commonplace language to the photographer’s curiosity about the world she inherited, spanning landscapes both dramatic and quiet, interiors of living rooms and bedrooms, and objects that are talismans of past lives. The exhibition includes more than 70 photographs taken between April 2009 and May 2011.

The pictures are, in a certain sense, portraits of subjects that have shaped Leibovitz’s distinctly American view of her cultural inheritance. Visiting the homes of iconic figures, including Thomas Jefferson, Emily Dickinson, Georgia O’Keeffe, Pete Seeger and Elvis Presley, as well as places such as Niagara Falls, Walden Pond, Old Faithful and the Yosemite Valley, she let her instincts and intuitions guide her to related subjects—hence the title “Pilgrimage.” Some of the pictures focus on the remaining traces of photographers and artists she admires, such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Ansel Adams and Robert Smithson. Together the pictures show Leibovitz at the height of her powers, unfettered by the demands of her career. “Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage” is organized for the museum by guest curator Andy Grundberg, former *New York Times* photography critic and associate provost and dean of undergraduate studies at the Corcoran College of Art + Design. The works on display in the exhibition will be acquired by the museum for its permanent collection.

### Public Program

Leibovitz will discuss her work Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, at 7 p.m. in the museum’s McEvoy Auditorium. Reserved tickets are required through [americanart.eventbrite.com](http://americanart.eventbrite.com); the event is currently sold out, but a limited number of seats may be available on a first-come, first-served basis at 6:55 p.m. the evening of the program. The talk will be webcast live and archived for later viewing on the museum’s website.

### Publication

The exhibition is presented in conjunction with a new book, *Pilgrimage*, published by Random House. It is available for purchase (\$50) in the museum store and at bookstores nationwide.

### Credit

“Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Bernie Stadiem Endowment Fund provided support for the exhibition.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, located above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station, is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Follow the museum on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, ArtBabble, iTunes and YouTube. Smithsonian information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Website: [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu).

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