

## With heart and soul, this exhibit expands how we see civil rights-era America

Think of the civil rights era, and a few images may come to mind. The photograph of Emmett Till lying mangled in a casket in 1955, after he was lynched in Mississippi at age 14. News footage of the riots of the late 1960s in Milwaukee, Detroit, Washington D.C., and other major cities, in response to Martin Luther King Jr.'s death and the desperate conditions of American inner-city neighborhoods. The Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a grieving Coretta Scott King at the funeral of her husband in 1968, their daughter Bernice slumped in her arms. They are scenes of grief and pain and violence — the toll of the fight for justice and equality.

Yet in the art created in that period, there's so much more. Not just the loss and pain, but also the energy and pride of a time when rallying cries for Black Power intensified.

An exhibit currently on show at The Broad museum in Los Angeles aims to greatly expand the canon of artwork made in those years. **"Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983"** features more than 60 black artists who illuminated that incendiary era with electrifying works — some previously unknown — including paintings, murals, collages, street photography, even prints made from a greased body pressed into paper, and sculptures made of human hair.



"Icon for My Man Superman (Superman Never Saved any Black People – Bobby Seale)", 1969, by Barkley L. Hendricks. Hendricks himself put on a Superman T-shirt, round sunglasses, and nothing else for this self-portrait. Photo by Pablo Enriquez

The exhibit devotes an entire room to black heroes, including an oil painting of Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale depicted in a Superman T-shirt, and activist Angela Davis painted in bright colors, with the words of her speeches radiating from her face.

"Soul of a Nation" opened at the Tate Modern in London in 2017, and is now on a U.S. tour. Before the Broad, it stopped at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas, and the Brooklyn Museum in New York. It will travel to **de Young Museum** in San Francisco next.