



CLARENCE J WILLIAMS III *Mary*

Born on May 17, 1920, in Napoleonville, LA, Mary London was three months old when the 19th Amendment was ratified. While the Amendment acknowledged “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex,” it did not guarantee every woman the right to vote. In Mary’s state of Louisiana, poll taxes prevented the majority of Black citizens from voting in elections until the 24th Amendment declared these taxes unconstitutional in 1964. Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Clarence J. Williams III captured this portrait of Mary outside her home in Kenner, LA, where she survived through Hurricane Katrina, illuminating her strength and resolve.



Artwork commissioned by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture for Los Angeles County’s celebration of the 19th Amendment Centennial. For more information on the six artists who created commemorative artworks, please visit lacountyarts.org.