

off the fence.

Smithsonian Spotlight (Series 3)

7 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Making a Winning Portrait

The Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, where today's artists dream of one day having their work hang under the painted gazes of the greatest women and men in the nation's history. Now, through our innovative Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, that very dream comes true for two extraordinary artists.

2. Bug House

For 350m years, they have roamed the earth. And for a considerably shorter period of time, the men and women at the Smithsonian Entomology Department have been using classic techniques along with cutting-edge technology to study and catalogue an ever-growing collection of creepy-crawly specimens.

3. Transforming America's History

Celebrate our nation's past and its future at the newly renovated Museum of American History. Whether observing Lincoln's top hat, a Civil Rights re-enactment, the swearing in of US citizens, or Mr. Roger's sweater, this transformed museum tells the American story in a brilliant new light.

4. National Design Awards 10th Anniversary

What do the iPod, Michelle Obama's inaugural dress, and the View-Master have in common? They're just a few of the award-winning designs recognized by the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. Join us as we remember a decade of designs that have improved and enriched our lives.

5. 100 Years of Natural History

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History is celebrating its one-hundred-year anniversary. It's the home of fine art, dinosaurs, the Hope Diamond, and over one hundred million specimens. We look at how its vital work remains a gift to science and to the American people, and, like the world it showcases, remains forever a work in progress.

6. Seeking Deep Sea Treasures

How can something covering 71% of the Earth's surface remain such a mystery? We look back on the history of deep-sea investigation and its salty tales of adventure, drunken sailors, and death. Then we look forward as today's pioneering technology helps us encounter more creatures than ever before. This is the story of the historic journey of scientist Austin H. Clark and the steamer Albatross, the first such vessel to plumb research specimens from the ocean's depths.

7. Peacock Room

Spend an evening in James McNeill Whistler's Peacock Room, residing in the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery, and learn of the bitter feud it spawned. What began as a makeover story from the turn of the century soon became a battle of wounded pride, revenge, and a clash between commerce and art.