WHO IS DR. CHARLES SMITH?

Dr. Charles Smith (b. 1940) is an artist who creates sculptures about black history. His sculptures show famous people from history, such as musician and singer Louis Armstrong, and scenes from everyday life, like a family eating dinner together. He uses found objects like hats, broken glass, and fabric on his sculptures. He first created his art in Illinois and now lives in Louisiana. He puts his sculptures outside his home. This is called an artist-built environment. He named his group of sculptures the African-American Heritage Museum + Black Veterans Archive. His museum is always open to visitors.

Dr. Charles Smith, Dr. Smith (self-portrait), c. 1985–c. 1999; mixed media; 63 1/2 x 15 x 14 in. John Michael Kohler Arts Center collection, gift of Kohler Foundation Inc.
Learn more about the historic figures Dr. Charles Smith sculpted.

**Louis Armstrong (1901-1971)**
Louis Armstrong was a musician and singer. He was born in New Orleans, and first learned how to play the cornet, an instrument similar to the trumpet, when he was young. As an adult, he sang and played trumpet with jazz groups in New York City and Chicago. He was also an actor and appeared in many movies. His songs can still be heard today on the radio, television, and in movies.


**Florence Griffith Joyner (Flo Jo) (1959-1998)**
In 1988, Flo Jo set world records for the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.49 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.34 seconds. She won three Olympic gold and two silver medals during her career.


**Rosa Parks (1913-2005)**
Rosa Parks wanted everyone to be treated the same, no matter the color of their skin. In 1955 she refused to give up her seat for a white passenger on a bus. At that time, there was a rule black people had to sit in the back of the bus. Her action helped change the rule so that people were treated equally on buses, no matter the color of their skin.


**Serena Williams (b. 1981)**
Serena Williams is a professional tennis player. She has won many tournaments, including a record four Olympic gold medals she earned with her sister, Venus. The Women’s Tennis Association has ranked her number one eight times during her career.


Continue your learning by visiting your local library or searching online to find out more about these historic figures and moments in history!