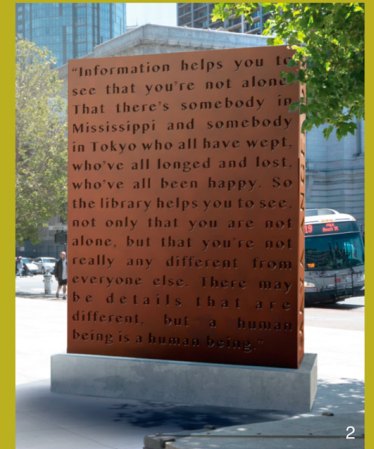


# PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN

ART PROPOSAL FOR A  
SCULPTURE HONORING  
DR. MAYA ANGELOU FOR  
THE SAN FRANCISCO  
MAIN LIBRARY  
LAVA THOMAS



"Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really different from everyone else. There may be details that are different, but a human being is a human being."



Author, poet, activist, mother, feminist, global citizen, educator and much more, Dr. Maya Angelou's extraordinary life, spirit and works are commemorated in the sculpture PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN. Its monumental scale speaks to Dr. Angelou's towering achievements in the face of adversity and celebrates her lasting impact on humanity. The sculpture takes the form of a book with a portrait of Dr. Angelou, translated in shallow relief from a drawing onto the sculpture's surface. Based on a still from a 1973 interview with the author, the portrait depicts Dr. Angelou as she discusses pressing social and political issues that still resonate today.

Quotations by the author are inscribed on the sculpture's base and surface, allowing her words to reach the public across time and memory. As Dr. Angelou continues to illuminate our world through her life and words, PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN creates an inspiring presence, encouraging us to find our own voice and courage while reminding us that despite our differences, we all belong to the human family.

