



## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### U.S. Postal Service Issuing Edmonia Lewis Black Heritage Forever Stamp Jan. 26

**WHAT:** The 45th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Edmonia Lewis, the first African American and Native American sculptor to earn international recognition. The stamp art is a casein-paint portrait based on a photograph of Lewis by Augustus Marshall made in Boston between 1864 and 1871.

The Edmonia Lewis stamp will be issued in panes of 20.

The first-day-of-issue event for the Edmonia Lewis Forever stamp is free and open to the public. News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtags **#EdmoniaLewis** and **#BlackHeritageStamps**.

**WHO:** Dr. Joshua D. Colin, Chief Retail and Delivery Officer, U.S. Postal Service and Dedicating Official

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. EST

**WHERE:** Smithsonian American Art Museum  
8th and G Streets NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**RSVP:** Dedication ceremony attendees are encouraged to RSVP at:  
[usps.com/edmonialewis](https://usps.com/edmonialewis).

**BACKGROUND:**

As the first African American and Native American sculptor to earn international recognition, Edmonia Lewis challenged social barriers and assumptions about artists in mid-19th century America.

Born in Greenbush, NY, Lewis spent most of her career in Rome, where her studio became a must-see attraction for American tourists. In addition to portrait busts of prominent people, Lewis's work incorporated African American themes, including the celebration of newly won freedoms, and sensitively depicted her Native American heritage as peaceful and dignified.

A Roman Catholic, Lewis also received several religious commissions. The work she produced during her prolific career evokes the complexity of her social identity and reflects the passion and independence of her artistic vision.

As the public continues to discover the beautiful subtleties of Lewis's work, scholars will further interpret her role in American art and the ways she explored, affirmed or de-emphasized her complex cultural identity to meet or expand the artistic expectations of her day.

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the [Postal Store](#) at [usps.com/shopstamps](https://usps.com/shopstamps), by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](#) or at Post Office locations nationwide.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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