Women at Yale

Yale College welcomed its first official class of undergraduate women in the fall of 1969. We now celebrate a woman’s place on campus, in the classroom, and on the faculty.

Kitchen to Table

“The dining hall is the place of gathering and daily renewal. Certainly, the staff serves, but not in drudgery or as second-class citizens, rather as the heart and core of the residential college, and they are viewed as such.” – Barbara Earl Thomas

Broken Is Mended

“What is broken is mended. The break is not erased or denied. It is history. It’s there and we all know it. We remember, commemorate, and we move forward.” – Barbara Earl Thomas

Winds of History

A robin flies to the background, taking with it the name John C. Calhoun. A hummingbird brings forward a new name, Grace Murray Hopper.

Education Is Freedom

In this scene that celebrates education as a civil right afforded to all, the figure of John C. Calhoun looks towards a book titled History Past while the “Sweet Angel of History” hovers over a Black figure—a broken chain and lock by his side—and points to the words History Present.

Basketball

A pick-up game of basketball provides a physical outlet from long hours of studying. Striving to win the Tyng Cup intramural sports trophy produces camaraderie out of friendly competition with the other residential colleges.

Library

The wood-paneled walls and ornate carpet of the library envelop students engrossed in their studies.

Painting

“You can’t sit around and wait for somebody to say who you are. You need to write it and paint it and do it.” – Faith Ringgold

In the Classroom: Grace Hopper

Grace Hopper stands at the front of her classroom. On the blackboard behind her is written “COBOL,” the computer programming language based on her research.

Dining

The trees on Elm Street seen through the old-fashioned windows form a backdrop for gatherings in the dining hall, where the community comes together to share food and conversation.

Pottery

“Creativity helps us realize that we don’t have to understand everything. We can enjoy something – feel it and use it – without ever fully comprehending it.” – Faith Ringgold

Faith Ringgold

b. Harlem, NY, 1930
Six windows in stained glass, 2022
Yale University, commissioned by the Office of the President

Barbara Earl Thomas

b. Seattle, WA, 1948
Four windows in stained glass, 2022
Yale University, commissioned by the Office of the President