

Two Generations



## Two Generations, 1979

### Artful Activism

The granddaughter of former slaves, **Elizabeth Catlett (1915–2012)** was born and raised in Washington, D.C. At Howard University, she studied design with Lois Mailou Jones (1905–1998). Later, she turned to sculpture and printmaking through which she advocated for social change.

### Take a closer look

*Two Generations* illustrates Catlett's skill as a printmaker. The dramatic play of light and shadow reveals her subjects' physical features and psychological complexity. Here, the artist invites us to consider the relationship and life experiences of these individuals.

### In her own words

"I learned that art is not something that people learn to do individually, that who does it is not important, but its use and its effects on people are what is most important."

Elizabeth Catlett, *Two Generations*, 1979; Lithograph on paper, 17 x 20¼ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Dorothy Stauffer Lyddon; Art © Elizabeth Catlett/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

