Audre Lorde was a black lesbian of Caribbean descent who fought for social justice through her poetry, teaching, radical feminism, and civil rights activism; declaring “I am defined as other in every group I’m part of... my sexuality is part and parcel of who I am, and my poetry comes from the intersection of me and my worlds.” In her groundbreaking essay, *The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House*, she criticized Second Wave white feminists who portrayed womankind as an undifferentiated bloc, stunning them with her claim that racism, classism, sexism and homophobia were linked by a collective failure to recognize and tolerate difference. In 1977 Lorde became the poetry editor for the lesbian journal, *Chrysalis: A Magazine of Women’s Culture*. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1978 and breathtakingly chronicled her struggles against and resistance to the disease in *The Cancer Journals* (1980). In 1979 she was a featured speaker at the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Together with fellow writer Barbara Smith, Lorde co-founded *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press* in the late 1980s in order to promote the writings of black feminists. Concerned with global as well as local events, she co-founded Sisters in Support of Sisters in South Africa (SISA) to raise concerns about black women under apartheid. After accepting an offer to serve as a guest professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies at the Free University of Berlin in 1984, she remained there as a U.S. expatriate until 1992 to pursue activist work with the Afro-German population. Lorde received the Walt Whitman Citation of Merit in 1991, which recognized her as poet laureate of New York State. She took the name “Gambia Adisa” – which means “Warrior: She Who Makes Her Meaning Known” – in an African naming ceremony shortly before she passed away from liver cancer on November 17, 1992 in St. Croix. Audre Lorde, self-proclaimed “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, and poet,” was 58.