

HISTORY LESSONS

Lauren Clayton documents the past and future.



Immortalizing people is Lauren Clayton's specialty. After completing a senior class project in which she designed a book about her immediate family, Clayton realized that the reward was not in receiving a good grade, but in producing a family heirloom. "There are a

lot of heroes in our everyday lives," says the 25-year-old Cooper Union grad, who won a \$20,000 business grant to launch her Stamford, Conn.-based company, Studio 162, three years ago. "Heirlooms are a great way to learn about yourself and honor your past, and knowing your past helps to guide you toward your future." Even Bill Cosby has one of her masterpieces, which was presented to him as a gift by the Jackie Robinson Foundation, who enlisted Clayton's help to honor Cosby at an awards dinner for his lifetime involvement with the grassroots organization. However, the Jamaican/Bermudian model doesn't only cater to celebrities. She understands the value of owning and learning a piece of your own personal history. After a free consultation, one can choose the length and focus of his or her heirloom, which can take anywhere from one to six months to complete. Whether it's documenting the life of a loved one, the adoption of a child, or a simple baby shower, Clayton knows everyone's story is worth sharing. "It's the one valuable that you'd try to save if your house was set afire," she says. "Documenting your history helps you stay connected to yourself. This is your chance to shed light on your life and enjoy reliving it over and over again."

To start preserving your history, visit www.studio162.com

