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ALL BUT HER BRAIDS

As a pioneer in performing arts for more than 40 years, Meredith Monk has accumulated a lot of stuff—programs, reviews, notes, notations, photographs, compositional scores, videos from rehearsals...and that's just in the first 70 boxes that she's given over to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Monk, who describes herself as having a "dancing voice," and a "singing body," doesn't fit into any one of the four divisions of the library—music, dance, recorded sound, and theater. So the library has created a fifth—performing arts—so that her archives remain together. Monk (left, in *Quarry*), who appeared at the library in December with her signature braids, said that unloading her archives made her feel physically lighter, like having a haircut. "That's the next step...the braids go!" she joked.