

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY

d. 1980; New York, NY

March on Washington, 1963

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Herb Robinson

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place in the nation's capital on August 28, 1963, the year the Workshop was founded. The march drew a quarter million people, including leaders from the most prominent civil rights groups of the time and several members of the collective. The occasion served as the site of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, which called for an end to racism in the United States. The mass demonstration is credited, in part, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that ended segregation in public places and prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Howard attended the March with several other Kamoinge members.

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Angela Davis Rally, Central Park, NYC, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

This image was taken the year Angela Davis, notable abolitionist, scholar, and feminist, was acquitted of kidnapping, murder, and conspiracy charges leveled against her by the state of California for allegedly supplying firearms present in a fatal altercation at the Marin County Civic Center. Davis was detained without bail for over sixteen months; in this period defense committees emerged both nationwide and internationally in support of her innocence and held rallies like the one depicted here. Following her acquittal, Davis resumed her work as a professor, author, and activist. In recent years, Davis has spoken out against the prison-industrial complex, a term describing how the for-profit prison model supports economic and political gains and disproportionately affects Black people.

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Gibson's Victory, 1970

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

C. Daniel Dawson captured the crowd celebrating the election of Kenneth Allen Gibson as mayor of Newark, New Jersey, and the first Black mayor of a major Northeastern city. The victory occurred three years after the Newark riots of 1967, which transpired over the course of four days and resulted in twenty-six deaths and hundreds of injuries. The riots came amid increasing racial tensions due to high rates of unemployment and police brutality, and a lack of political representation for the large Black population in the city. Gibson's victory was cause for optimism, as he had garnered wide support for his promise to be a representative and advocate for the Black community.

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Olaifa and Egypt, 1978

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

In this multiple exposure image C. Daniel Dawson combines Ancient Egyptian statuary in a vitrine in the Metropolitan Museum of Art with a portrait of his goddaughter, Olaifa, the child of artist Charles Abramson. Dawson also traveled internationally, photographing local communities and cultures of the African diaspora in countries such as Guyana and Brazil.

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Grace Jones, c. 1970

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts
Fund for American Art

In this portrait of model and performer Grace Jones, Anthony Barboza filled the frame with her features, communicating her larger-than-life presence. This tight framing, along with precise lighting, turns Jones's image into an abstraction of sorts. As a fine arts and commercial photographer, Barboza photographed well-known personalities and traveled extensively. Barboza also played a key role in chronicling the Kamoinge Workshop and his insightful portraits of the collective's members are on view elsewhere in this exhibition.

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Jackson Mississippi, 1963

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Jack E. Chachkes Endowed Purchase Fund 2020.65

Adger Cowans made this photograph soon after the assassination of Medgar Evers, a civil rights activist and the NAACP field secretary for the state of Mississippi, where Cowans made this double-exposed image. Cowans, who studied photography at Ohio University and who is also a painter and a member of AfriCOBRA—a Chicago-based Black artist collective—is still an active artist today; he continues to explore the expressive potential of experimental and abstract aspects of photography in images of water, land- and cityscapes, and the body.

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Congressional Gathering, 1959

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Louis Draper would often use various fabrics, such as bedsheets and curtains, to produce layers of textures, wrinkles, transparencies, shadows, and light in his photographs. In this image Draper symbolically represented the ubiquitous threat of white supremacy. Here, peaked white sheets recall the white hoods worn by the Ku Klux Klan, while the work's title, *Congressional Gathering*, makes reference to the institutional racism that pervades and affects American society at all levels, including the government.

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Freedom Summer), 1964
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Untitled (Palmers Crossing, Mississippi), 1964
Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Photography Committee 2020.57

In these photographs, Herbert Randall captures moments of quotidian quietude—a figure bent over a pump enveloped by pine needles and grass, and a daydreamer with a dangling leg and resting head. He made the images in Mississippi during a campaign—now known as the Freedom Summer—to register Black voters and fight intimidation and discrimination at the polls. Randall traveled with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, one of the groups organizing the voters' rights campaign. Despite the white supremacist violence that characterized that summer, and Randall's close proximity to the political action, he chose to focus on depicting everyday life in the Black community, countering the sensationalist, and often violent, narratives of the mainstream media.

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Malcolm X in front of Mr. Lewis Micheaux's bookstore,
1964

Gelatin silver print, printed 2017

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Photography Committee 2020.45

This photograph by Beuford Smith of Malcolm X captures the civil rights leader and supporter of Black nationalism speaking in front of the historic National Memorial African Bookstore in Harlem. Also known as the “House of Common Sense and the Home of Proper Propaganda,” the bookstore exclusively sold works by and about Black Americans. It had an international clientele and was a gathering place for artists, intellectuals, and political figures, as well as ordinary citizens. Crowds often gathered outside the store to hear speeches on topics such as civil rights, education, and Black nationalism. Owner Lewis H. Michaux frequently proclaimed to customers: “Knowledge is power; you need it every hour. Read a book.”

Woman in Doorway, Harlem, 1965

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts
Fund for American Art

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Two Kids in Front of Jax Beer, Mississippi, 1967

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Shawn Walker took this photograph of two children on the street while working in Indianola, Mississippi, as a film cameraman for the weekly television program *American Black Journal*. A sensitive observer of cultural dynamics, the artist made commercial iconography—Jax beer and cigarette ads—a central element in this evocative and engaged image. Walker's improvisational approach is informed by a keen aesthetic and social perspective.

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Pensacola, Fla., 1966

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from
Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo 2020.52

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Pensacola, Florida, 1966

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

New Bedford, MA, c. 1970

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Photography Committee 2020.54

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

NYC, c. 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Albert R. Fennar

b. 1938; Englewood, NJ

d. 2018; Long Beach, CA

Negroes Unite, 1968

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Shawn Walker

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Ming Smith, NYC, 1973

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Albert R. Fennar

b. 1938; Englewood, NJ

d. 2018; Long Beach, CA

Sag Harbor, 1975

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Miya Fennar and the Albert R. Fennar Archive

Straight Street, 1965

Gelatin silver print

Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library, Archives, Louis H. Draper
Archives (VA-04), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; acquired from the
Louis H. Draper Preservation Trust with the Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment Fund

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Self-Portrait, NYC, c. 1978

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Boy on Swing, Lower East Side, 1970

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

This photograph was taken in a park near Beuford Smith's apartment in what is now considered New York's East Village. Smith, who frequently visited this playground to take photos, captured the isolated boy in a serene moment that is sharpened by the stark contrast between the boy's dark clothing and the white snow. "Some say my photography is of loneliness," Smith has said. "But I don't see that. I see it as peaceful, and quiet." This photograph was included in Volume I of the *Black Photographers Annual* (1973), also on view in this gallery.

Clockwise, from far left:

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Egg Nude, 1958

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; gift of the artist

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Backscape #1, 1967

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist



Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

At the Met, Ming, 1974

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Malcolm Speaks, c. 1960–65

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund



Betty Shabazz & Percy Sutton at Malcolm's Funeral, 1965

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Jack E. Chachkes Endowed Purchase Fund 2020.64

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Far and Away, 1970

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Grandma Thomas, 1968

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Chas. Oyama Gordon, 1970

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Okra Orchestra, Brooklyn, NY Rehearsal, 1978

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Ming Smith

n.d.; Detroit, MI

Sun Ra space II, New York City, NY, c. 1978

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

This photograph pictures Sun Ra, a classically trained avant-garde jazz musician, composer, band leader, and poet who often described his music in interplanetary or cosmic terms. Ming Smith captures Sun Ra's swirling form enveloped in a shimmering cape that slices the air, leaving behind a glittering constellation of light and darkness. The portrait encapsulates Sun Ra's dynamism, his fluidity between worlds, and his sound—a frequently unpredictable blend of notes, words, and silence.

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Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Two Bass Hit, Lower East Side, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

 803

From left to right:

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Snow Study, 1970

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Footsteps, 1958 (printed later)

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (Lower East Side), c. 1960s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Clockwise, from far left:

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA
d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

John Henry, c. 1960s
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund for American Art

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Garment Worker NYC, 1967
Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Photography Committee 2020.44

Lower East Side, 1969
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

 804

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA
d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Untitled (Garment District, NYC), c. 1960–61
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund for American Art

From left to right:

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

John Coltrane, 1960–67

Gelatin silver print

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture,
Washington, DC; gift of Nell Draper-Winston

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Miles Davis at the Village Vanguard, 1961

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

 801

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Miles Davis, 1966

Gelatin silver print

Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library, Archives, Louis H. Draper
Archives (VA-04), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; acquired from the
Louis H. Draper Preservation Trust with the Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment Fund

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Untitled (Noisy Panthers Disrupt Trial), c. 1966–72

Gelatin silver print

Untitled, c. 1960s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund
for American Art

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Boy, New York, c. 1965

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Photography Committee 2016.148

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA
d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Untitled (Santos), 1967
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund
for American Art

Untitled, c. 1960s
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA
d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Girl and Cuba (Philadelphia), 1968
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA
d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Fannie Lou Hamer, Mississippi, 1971
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund
for American Art

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Fannie Lou Hamer, Mississippi, c. 1960

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Photography Committee 2016.145

Clockwise, from top left:

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Cinema Poster (Dakar, Senegal, West Africa), 1978

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Ming Smith

n.d.; Detroit, MI

Onlookers, Isle de Gorée, Senegal, c. 1972

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund



Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Fadiouth, Senegal, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Albert R. Fennar

b. 1938; Englewood, NJ
d. 2018; Long Beach, CA

Caddy, 1965

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Miya Fennar and the Albert R. Fennar Archive

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

NYC, c. 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Photography Committee 2020.53

From left to right:

Albert R. Fennar

b. 1938; Englewood, NJ

d. 2018; Long Beach, CA

Out of the Dark/Bowery, 1967

Gelatin silver print

Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library, Archives, Louis H. Draper Archives (VA-04), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; acquired from the Louis H. Draper Preservation Trust with the Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment Fund



Ming Smith

n.d.; Detroit, MI

Untitled (Harlem, NY), c. 1973

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Shadows, 1966

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

From left to right:

Ray Francis

b. 1937; New York, NY
d. 2006; New York, NY

Baka, c. 1966–68
Gelatin silver print

Collection of Shawn Walker

C. Daniel Dawson

b. 1943; Los Angeles, CA

Amiri #10, 1970
Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

James Mannas Jr.

b. 1941; New York, NY

Mama, 139 West 117 Street, Apt. 4E, Harlem, NYC, 1963
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

From left to right:

Ray Francis

b. 1937; New York, NY
d. 2006; New York, NY

Untitled (water image), n.d.
Gelatin silver print

Collection of Shawn Walker

Albert R. Fennar

b. 1938; Englewood, NJ
d. 2018; Long Beach, CA

Sphere, 1974
Gelatin silver print

Salt Pile, 1971
Gelatin silver print

Collection of Shawn Walker

Albert R. Fennar took this photograph of a salt pile in the Midwest during a cross-country summer road trip with his family. Fennar had been stationed in Japan in the late 1950s during his service in the Air Force and was inspired to pursue photography by the Japanese film and photography he saw there, particularly the expressionistic and surreal work of the prominent Japanese photographer Eikoh Hosoe. After returning to New York in the early 1960s, he joined the Kamoinge Workshop, and was best-known for his abstract images. “My approach to photography has always been sort of Zen-like,” Fennar explained. “Instead of going with a frame of reference, I try to . . . go out with no ideas about what I want to do.”

From left to right:

Ray Francis

b. 1937; New York, NY
d. 2006; New York, NY

Untitled (nude), 1960–70s
Gelatin silver print

Untitled (woman at table), 1960–70s
Gelatin silver print

Collection of Shawn Walker

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (Lower East Side, NY), c. 1960s
Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY
d. 1980; New York, NY

New York, 1960s
Gelatin silver print

Collection of Herb Robinson

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Tiffany's Window on 57th Street, NYC, c. 1968–72

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts
Fund for American Art

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY

d. 1980; New York, NY

New York, 1963

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Herb Robinson

Clockwise, from far left:

James Mannas Jr.

b. 1941; New York, NY

No Way Out, Harlem, NYC, 1964

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

▶ 809

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Self-Portrait in Waterfall, NYC, 1978

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund for American Art

Wall, Lower East Side, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

James Mannas Jr.

b. 1941; New York, NY

Bag Ladies, Matthews Ridge, Guyana, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Peeping Sea Wall Beach Boy, Sea Wall, Georgetown, Guyana, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Recess, Bishops All Girls High School, Georgetown, Guyana, 1973

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

James Mannas Jr., along with several members of the collective, studied film at New York University. While making a film on the artist, illustrator, and author Tom Feelings, Mannas traveled to Guyana, where Feelings was living at the time. Like many artists in the collective, traveling allowed Mannas to avoid the level of racism that pervaded the American art world. In Guyana, Mannas was impressed with the artistic freedom and government support for artists in the newly independent nation. While living there for several years in the 1970s, Mannas worked on a film and made a large body of photographs about the people of Guyana. He also helped to coordinate photography classes and the construction of darkrooms for Guyanese communities.

▶ 813

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY

d. 1980; New York, NY

Guyana, 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Herb Robinson

Clockwise, from far left:

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (Bed-Stuy, New York), c. 1960s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY

d. 1980; New York, NY

Sweet as a Peach, 1963

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Herb Robinson

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Sunday, Harlem Woman, 1966

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Little Flower Baptist Church, 1962

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (New Jersey), c. 1960s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (Lower East Side, New York), c. 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Untitled (Lower East Side, New York), c. 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Untitled (Lower East Side, NY), c. 1960

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Photography Committee 2020.56

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Central Park, Kids, 1961

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Relaxing in Central Park, 1961

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

The Girls, 1969

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Mahalia Jackson, 1969

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Brother and Sister, 1973

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Photography Committee 2020.46

Shelly, 1965

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Faces, 1979

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment and gift of the artist

 806

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Bus Stop, Kingston, Jamaica, 1973

Gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

With its remarkable tonal range and varying levels of contrast this photograph of people in various stages of waiting at a bus stop demonstrates Herb Robinson's keen eye for composition and sensitivity to his environment. Elements of the image are layered at varying depths: a hat and a pair of matching brightly striped shirts are stark in the foreground, while a shaded figure standing in the doorway and a small handkerchief in motion blend almost seamlessly into the background. Robinson often depicted individuals or a tableau of figures from intimate and surprising perspectives. He took this photo on a trip to Jamaica, the first time he returned there as an adult after moving away at the age of five.

Robin (Jamaica), 1973

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Photography Committee 2020.47

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Pork Chop Davis, 125th and Lenox Ave., 1965

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts
Fund for American Art

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Street Speaker, 1968

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Man Crying (MLK Essay), 1968

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts
Fund for American Art

Ming Smith

n.d.; Detroit, MI

*Sun Breeze after the Bluing, Hoboken, New Jersey,
c. 1972*

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

Kites Inside, Columbus, Ohio, c. 1972

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Anne Levy Fund 2017.194

Ming Smith

n.d.; Detroit, MI

Amen Corner Sisters, Harlem, NY, c. 1976

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

Ming Smith

n.d.; Detroit, MI

*America Seen through Stars and Stripes, New York City,
New York, c. 1976*

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams
Fund, 2016.241

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Boys with Banana by the Window, Bronx, NY, 1966

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Harlem, 117th Street, c. 1960

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Police in "Riot Gear" (Civil Defense Helmets) After Riot on 125th Street, Harlem, c. 1963

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Louis Draper

b. 1935; Richmond, VA

d. 2002; Trenton, NJ

Untitled (Black Muslims), c. 1960s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; gift of Louis H. Draper Trust

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Women in the Field, Cuba, 1968

Gelatin silver print

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Boys with Cups, Cuba, 1968

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

From left to right:

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Mirror Reflection, Bronx, 1969

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Adger Cowans

b. 1936; Columbus, OH

Momma's Ohio Piano, c. 1965

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund

Ray Francis

b. 1937; New York, NY

d. 2006; New York, NY

Herman Howard, 1971

Gelatin silver print

Collection of Shawn Walker

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Soho Display Window, NYC, c. 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund for American Art

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Easter Sunday, Harlem (125th Street), 1972

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the Photography Committee, the Jack E. Chachkes Endowed Purchase Fund, and the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation 2020.61

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

NYC, c. 1970s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund for American Art

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Man with Bubble, Central Park (near Bandshell),

c. 1960–79 (printed 1989)

Gelatin silver print

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from the
Photography Committee 2020.62

From left to right:

Calvin Wilson

b. 1924; New York, NY

d. 1992; New York, NY

New York No. 1, c. 1960s

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

Beuford Smith

b. 1941; Cincinnati, OH

Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, 1970

Gelatin silver print

Brooklyn, NY, c. 1970

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow
Endowment

These portfolios, assembled in 1964 and 1965, are the best surviving public statements of how Kamoinge's early members chose to represent their community and themselves as artists. The Workshop distributed these portfolios to universities, libraries, and museums, thereby placing their members' photographs in select institutions that might not have otherwise collected their work. The images in the portfolios suggest that Workshop members were committed to challenging conventional representations of Black Americans, particularly those that appeared in mainstream newspapers and magazines, by allowing their daily life to be an occasion for art.

Both portfolios include works by artists beyond the members of Kamoinge featured in this exhibition. These photographers attended meetings at various points during the collective's first two years, and participated in the group's early exhibitions, but most of their involvement diminished by the time the group produced and distributed the second portfolio in 1965.

On wall:

Selections from *Kamoinge Workshop Portfolio No. 1*, 1964
Fourteen gelatin silver prints

The Museum of Modern Art, New York; purchase

Left:

Portfolio cover, 1964

Shawn Walker

b. 1940; New York, NY

Untitled, 1964

Center, clockwise from top left:

Calvin Wilson

b. 1924; New York, NY
d. 1992; New York, NY

Untitled, 1964

Albert R. Fennar

b. 1938; Englewood, NJ
d. 2018; Long Beach, CA

Untitled, 1964

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY
d. 1980; New York, NY

Untitled, 1964

Herbert Randall

b. 1936; Riverhead, NY

Harlem, New York, 1964

Right:

James Mannas Jr.

b. 1941; New York, NY

Untitled, 1964

Ray Francis

b. 1937; New York, NY
d. 2006; New York, NY

Untitled, 1964

Not displayed: works by Bob Clark, Roy DeCarava, Louis Draper, Earl James, Calvin Mercer, Melvin Mills, Larry Stewart

In vitrine:

Selections from *Kamoinge Workshop Portfolio No. 2*, 1965

Eleven gelatin silver prints

The Museum of Modern Art, New York; gift of The Kamoinge Workshop

From left to right:

Portfolio cover with Shawn Walker's *Untitled*, 1965

Herb Robinson

n.d.; Kingston, Jamaica

Untitled, 1965

James Mannas Jr.

b. 1941; New York, NY

Untitled, 1965

Ray Francis

b. 1937; New York, NY
d. 2006; New York, NY

Untitled, 1965

Herman Howard

b. 1942; New York, NY
d. 1980; New York, NY

Untitled, 1965

Calvin Wilson

b. 1924; New York, NY
d. 1992; New York, NY

New York, c. 1965

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Untitled, 1965

Not displayed: works by David Carter, Louis Draper, Herbert Randall, Shawn Walker

In 1972, Anthony Barboza made individual portraits of each Kamoinge member, which were displayed together at the group's exhibition at the Studio Museum in Harlem that year. Later, Barboza asked each member to choose one of their own images to accompany their portrait and had them make fourteen prints. He then compiled the portraits and prints to create accordion-fold bound books, which he gave to each of them as Christmas presents.

A history of the Workshop published by member Louis Draper in the 1972 issue of the James VanDerZee Institute's *Photo Newsletter* lists the fourteen photographers represented here, who consist of founding members and two photographers who had recently joined the group, as the collective's current membership. Kamoinge engaged, however, with a broader community of Black photographers throughout its history, some of whom came to meetings and knew the members well. From 1972 forward, the group kept its membership static until it reorganized in 1992 and formally opened membership again in 1994.

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Kamoinge Workshop Portraits, 1972

Gelatin silver print

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; National Endowment for the Arts Fund for American Art

From left to right:

Anthony Barboza (self-portrait)

Adger Cowans

C. Daniel Dawson

Louis Draper

Albert R. Fennar

Ray Francis

Herman Howard

James Mannas Jr.

Herbert Randall

Herb Robinson

Beuford Smith

Ming Smith

Shawn Walker

Calvin Wilson

Kamoinge Artists' Book, 1972

Twenty-eight gelatin silver prints in accordion-fold album

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

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Kamoinge Artists' Book, 1972

Twenty-eight gelatin silver prints in accordion-fold album

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment

Anthony Barboza

b. 1944; New Bedford, MA

Kamoinge Portrait, 1973

Gelatin silver print (photo-enlargement)

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Eric and Jeanette Lipman Fund

Interviews with Kamoinge artists, 2017–18

Digital video, color, sound; 44:27 min.

Video produced by Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond,
Imaging Resources