



CHESTER HIGGINS  
The Indelible Spirit

May 6 - June 26, 2021

BRUCE SILVERSTEIN

# CHESTER HIGGINS

## The Indelible Spirit

“These subjects will not be forgotten; they cannot be erased. They matter.”  
-Chester Higgins

Chester Higgins walked into the photographic studio of P.H. Polk in Alabama in 1967 to pick up a photograph for an advertisement in his Tuskegee University newspaper. He left with something entirely unexpected--the first awareness of a passion that would unfold throughout his life. Higgins caught a glimpse that day of photographs hanging behind Polk's studio curtains that he had taken during the 1930s of people in the rural South. The beauty, dignity and strength of character in those photographs captivated Higgins, and reminded him of the people he knew and had seen in his church and among farmers in rural Alabama where he grew up. The power of Polk's images inspired Higgins to ask the elder photographer several days later if he would teach him to use Polk's own camera. Surprised by the naïve and audacious request, Polk lent Higgins his camera for a few hours. This extraordinary gesture of generosity and the valuable information and insights he subsequently gave Higgins, started the young man on a long and extraordinary journey with photography.

Higgins bought his own camera the following year. It was the summer of 1968 at the height of the civil rights movement. At that time the media in Alabama was publishing photographs that depicted Black men as “vicious criminals,” as Higgins described. Those images were very different than the ones Higgins made at the time that presented the protestors against Jim Crow laws as serious and decent men like himself.

Looking to further his knowledge of photography, Higgins visited New York City during the summer of 1969, where he met the photographer Arthur Rothstein, who was the Director of Photography at *Look Magazine* then. Rothstein asked Higgins what message he wanted to convey in his photographs, and the young Higgins responded with a statement that has resounded throughout his work to the present:

“Our media show no positive images of decent black people...men and women who work hard, go to church, have respectful and loving relationships. We need images of black people that reflect the fullness of our lives.”

After graduating from Tuskegee University in 1970, he moved to New York City where Rothstein guided him and introduced him to Cornell Capa, Gordon Parks and Romare Bearden. Higgins's relationship with these men was of great importance to him professionally and artistically.

Polk had told Higgins that, "there is no camera that can make a picture..., only your eyes can make a picture," and Parks had emphasized that, "great photographs are made with the heart, not necessarily with the eye." These two ideas have guided Higgins in his work throughout his life.

Higgins became a staff photographer for *The New York Times* in 1975, and worked as a news photographer there until 2014. After spending an eight-hour day working at the *Times*, he would then shoot for his own work. As he accumulated vacation time, he used it to travel. His first trip to Africa, however, had been in 1971, when he went to Senegal to shoot for an article in *Essence Magazine*. The following year he went to Ghana, and he returned to both Ghana and Senegal over the next several years. During his first trip to Africa, the goals for his photographic work expanded into:

"...a lifelong study of the mannerisms, culture, and traditions of my people--mirror images of the people of my childhood."

The exhibition *Chester Higgins: The Indelible Spirit* at the Bruce Silverstein Gallery charts the early course of Higgins's journey from the late 1960s through the 1990s with a selection of images that highlight his career from his beginnings as a talented student living in Alabama, through his early years in New York, and his travels to Senegal and Ghana.

Higgins photographs people of all generations--children looking tentatively out at the world; young adults full of strength and vitality; and elders, whose wisdom he evokes in quiet, peaceful circumstances. Whether at rest, work, or in social situations, alone, or with family, friends, and lovers, Higgins's work reflects his respect for moments of deep contemplation. Through light, composition and a superb attentiveness to the flow of life, he creates images in which the sheer beauty of light and form conjure the magical spirit of an individual or group.

Higgins often shoots into the light. In some cases the contrasts between light and form become silhouettes in which the details of his subject are obscured and the essence of the moment revealed. At other times Higgins focuses on the sculptural form of a figure, on its texture emphasized and enveloped in light and shadow. Whether taking a close up or distanced view, focusing on detail or general form, it is the energy and spirit in his photographs that are most distinctive. Higgins finds the moment that lies between the physical and the spiritual. This is the profound and sweet spot in his photographs, the moment when something unexplainable opens up--an indelible spirit in his work that cannot be erased.

-Carrie Springer, Curator

*The Indelible Spirit* opens May 6 - June 26, 2021 at Bruce Silverstein Gallery, 529 West 20th Street, New York



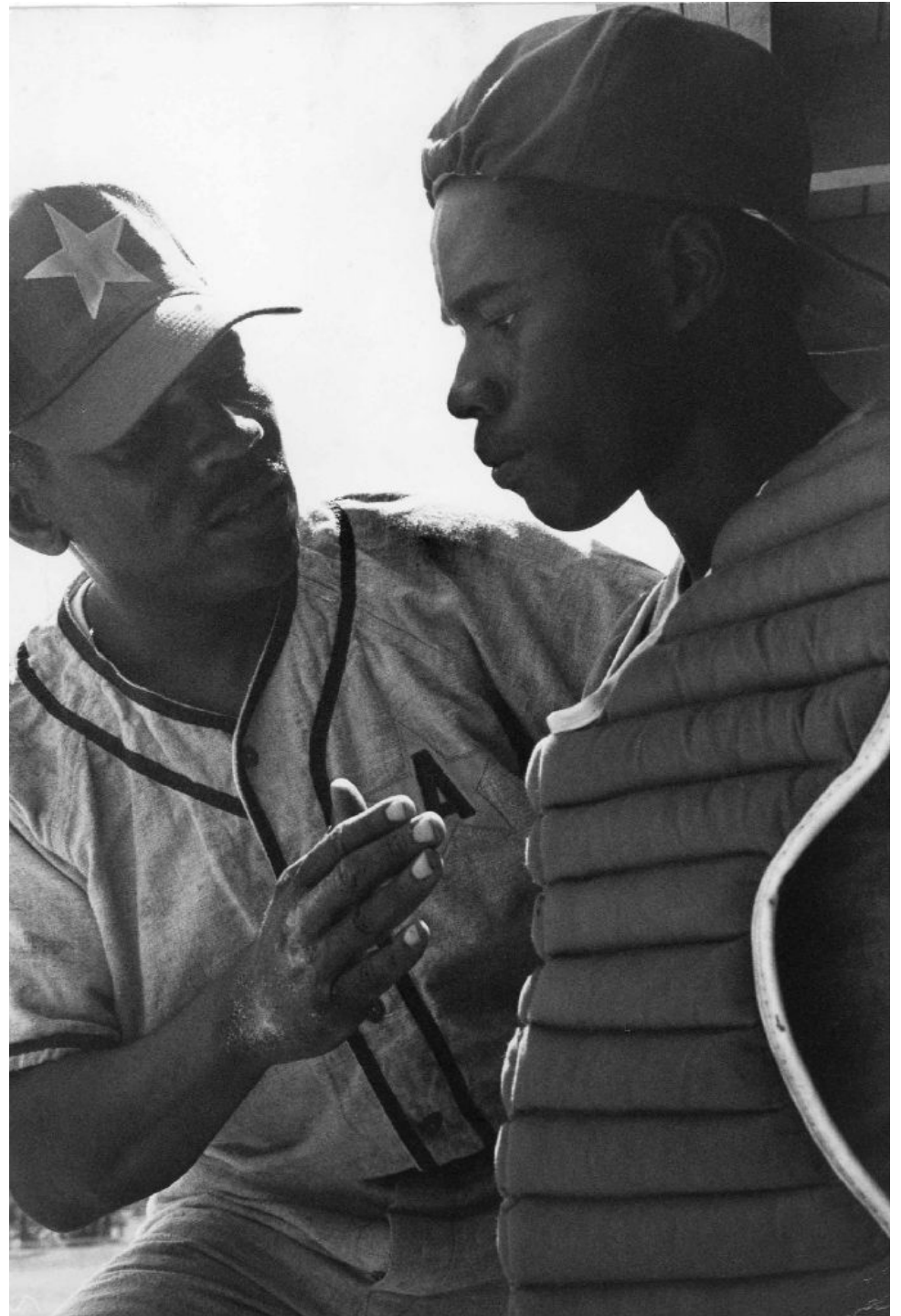
*Barbershop, Tuskegee, Alabama, 1972*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1992-1993  
20 x 24 in. (50.8 x 61 cm)  
CHI-00170-SP



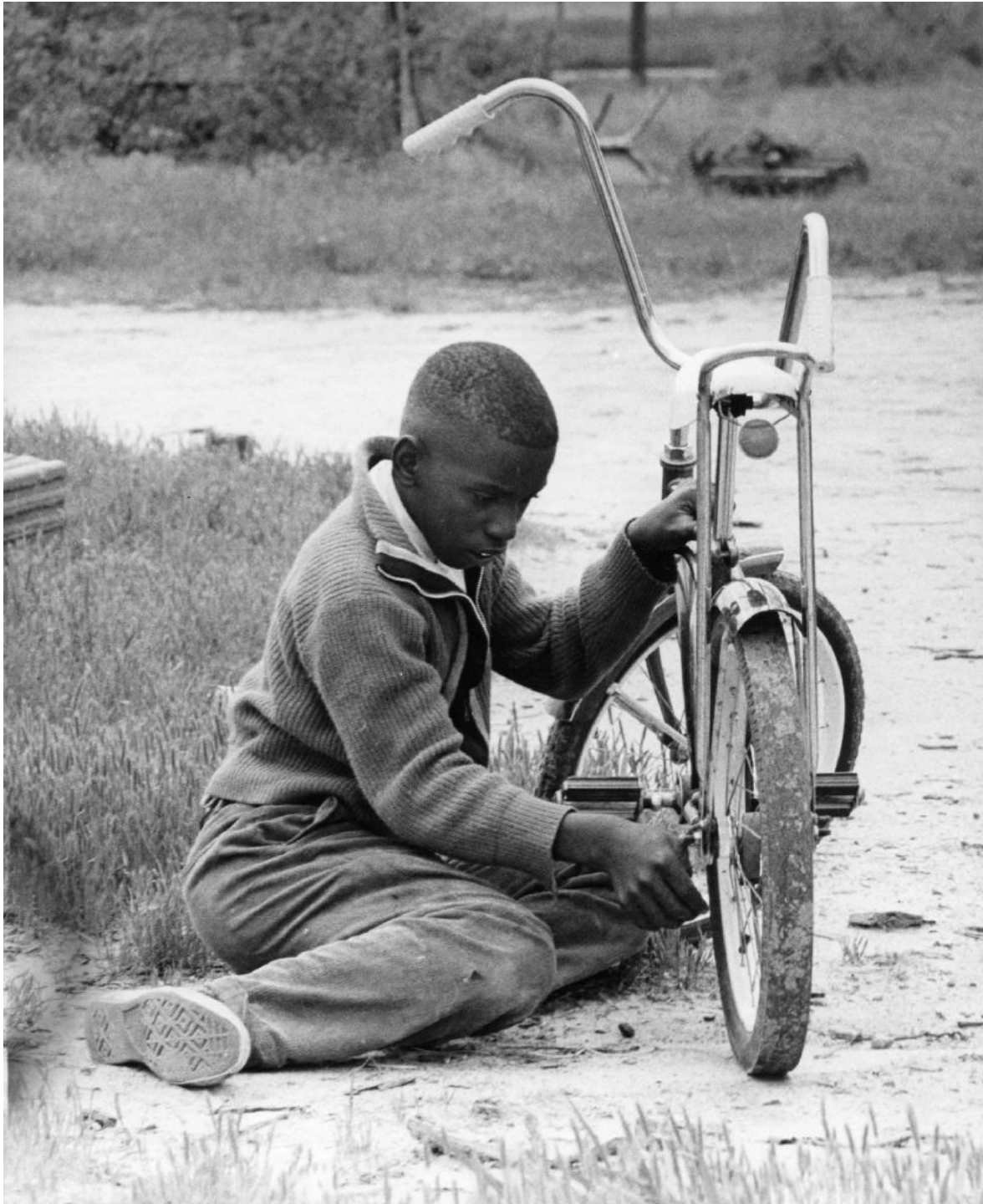
*Front Porch, Macon County, Alabama, 1967*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990s  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00195-SP



*Watching the Drag Race, Tuskegee Alabama, 1969*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969  
6 1/2 x 9 7/8 in. (16.5 x 25.1 cm)  
CHI-00161-SP



*Coach and Catcher, Tuskegee, Alabama, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00154-SP

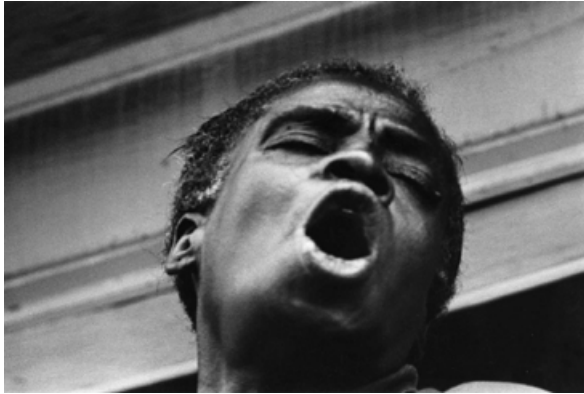


*Macon County, Alabama, 1969*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00192-SP



*Pastor at Church, Macon County, Alabama, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00191-SP



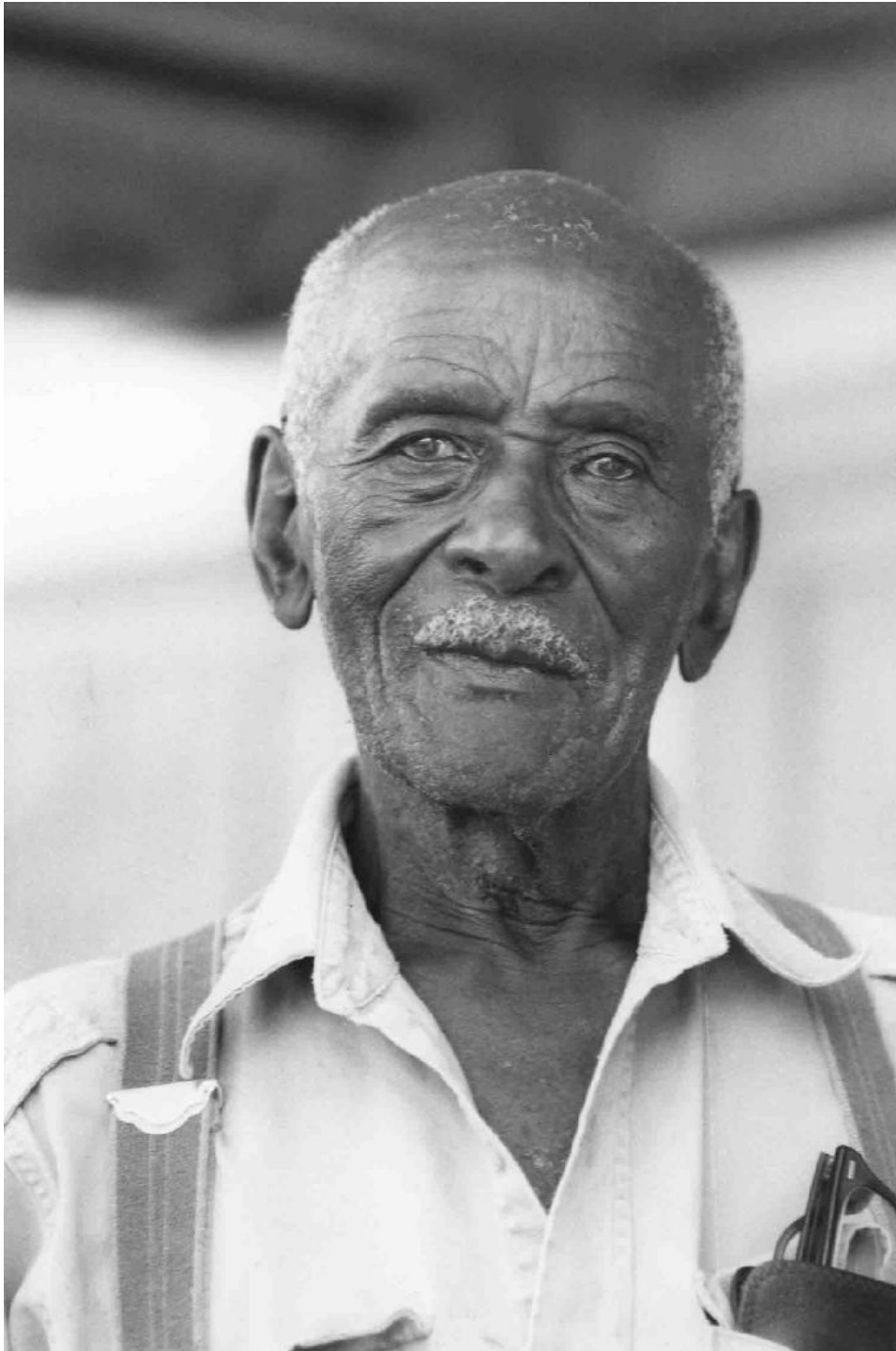


*A Joyful Noise, Macon County, Alabama, 1968*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1968  
6 5/8 x 9 3/4 in. (16.8 x 24.8 cm)  
CHI-00201-SP

*Spencer Jones in prayer at Springfield Baptist Church,  
New Brockton, Alabama, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00180-SP

*Hands of Contentment, Tuskegee, Alabama, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00166-SP

*Church kid, Tuskegee, Alabama, c. 1969*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969  
6 5/8 x 9 3/4 in. (16.8 x 24.8 cm)  
CHI-00157-SP



*Uncle March Fourth McGowan,  
New Brockton, Alabama, 1981*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1981  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00176-SP

*Uncle March Fourth McGowan,  
Enterprise, Alabama, 1995*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1995  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00175-SP

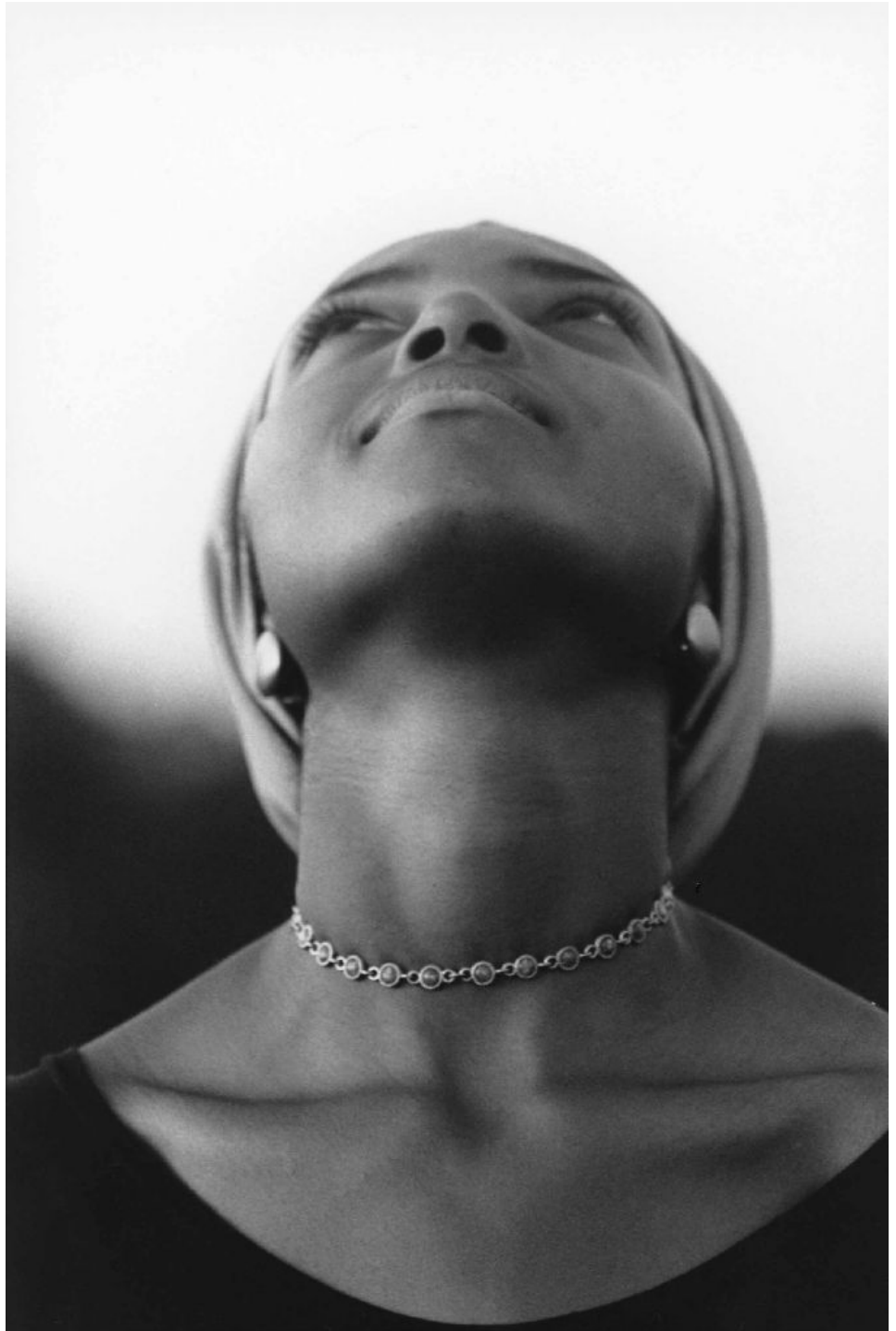


*Uncle March Fourth McGowan entering his home, New Brockton, Alabama, 1981*

Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1981

8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)

CHI-00177-SP



*Necklace, Atlanta, Georgia, 1974*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990s  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00225-SP



*Home visit, Macon County Fair, Alabama, 1968*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1968  
6 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. (16.5 x 24.8 cm)  
CHI-00189-SP

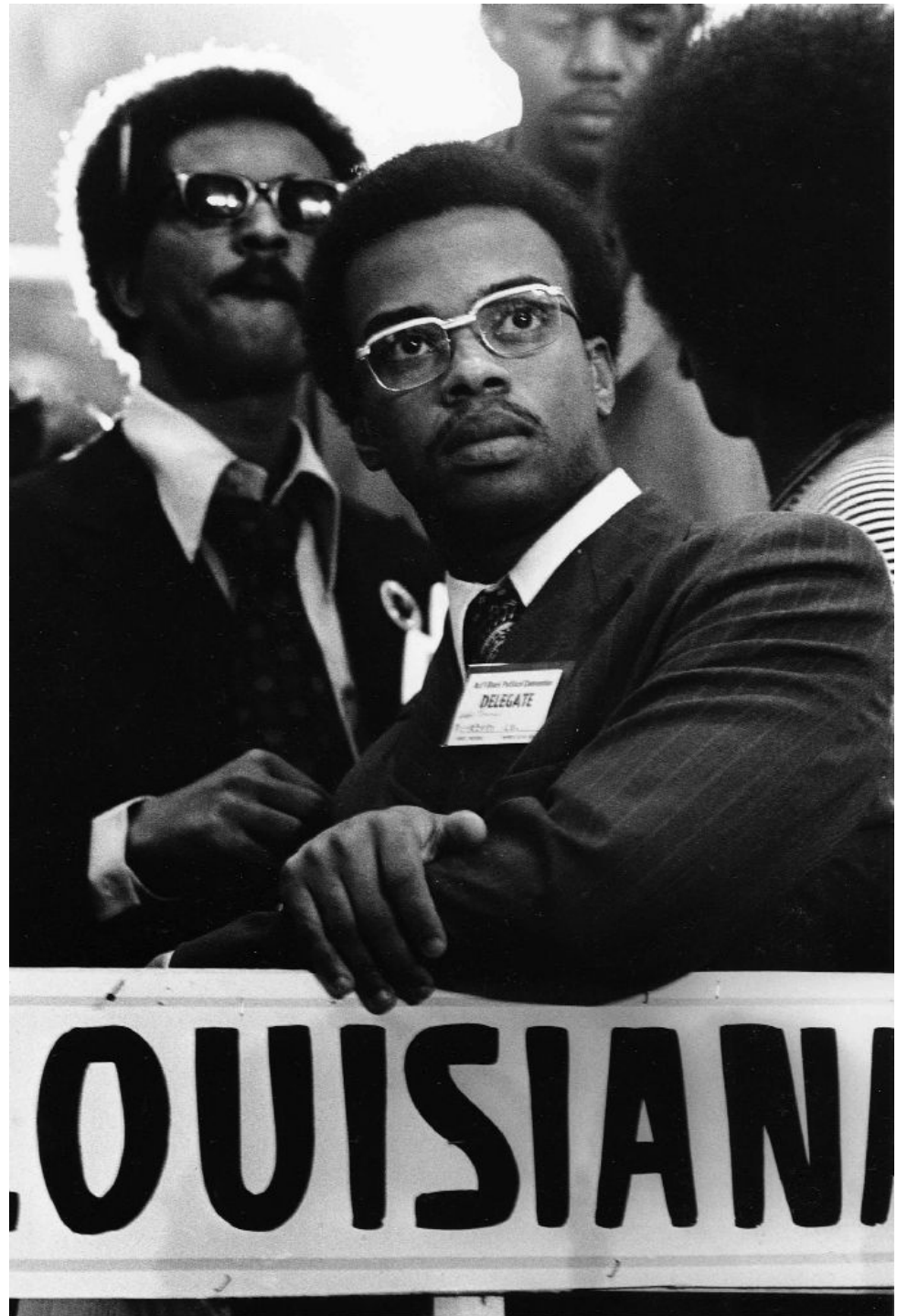


*Harold McDugall and Gay Elaine Johnson Wedding,  
Atlanta, Georgia, 1971*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1971  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00222-SP





*Flag and Hope, New York City, 1990*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00086-SP



*A delegate at the National Black Political  
Convention, Gary, Indiana, 1972*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1972  
9 7/8 x 6 3/4 in. (25.1 x 17.1 cm)  
CHI-00230-SP





*Looking for Justice, Civil Rights Rally,  
Montgomery, Alabama, 1968*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1968  
7 5/8 x 8 5/8 in. (19.4 x 21.9 cm)  
CHI-00213-SP



*Jesse Jackson at a Justice Rally, California, 1970*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1970  
7 x 9 in. (17.8 x 22.9 cm)  
CHI-00362-SP



*Student Leaders, Tuskegee University, Alabama, 1968*

Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1968

8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)

CHI-00162-SP





*Early morning coffee, Harlem, 1974*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1992-1993  
20 x 24 in. (50.8 x 61 cm)  
CHI-00132-SP



*Basketball player at rest, West Village, Manhattan, 1973*

Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973

3 3/8 x 5 in. (8.6 x 12.7 cm)

CHI-00069-SP

*Monkey bars, Brooklyn, 1998*

Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1998

11 x 14 in. (27.9 x 35.6 cm)

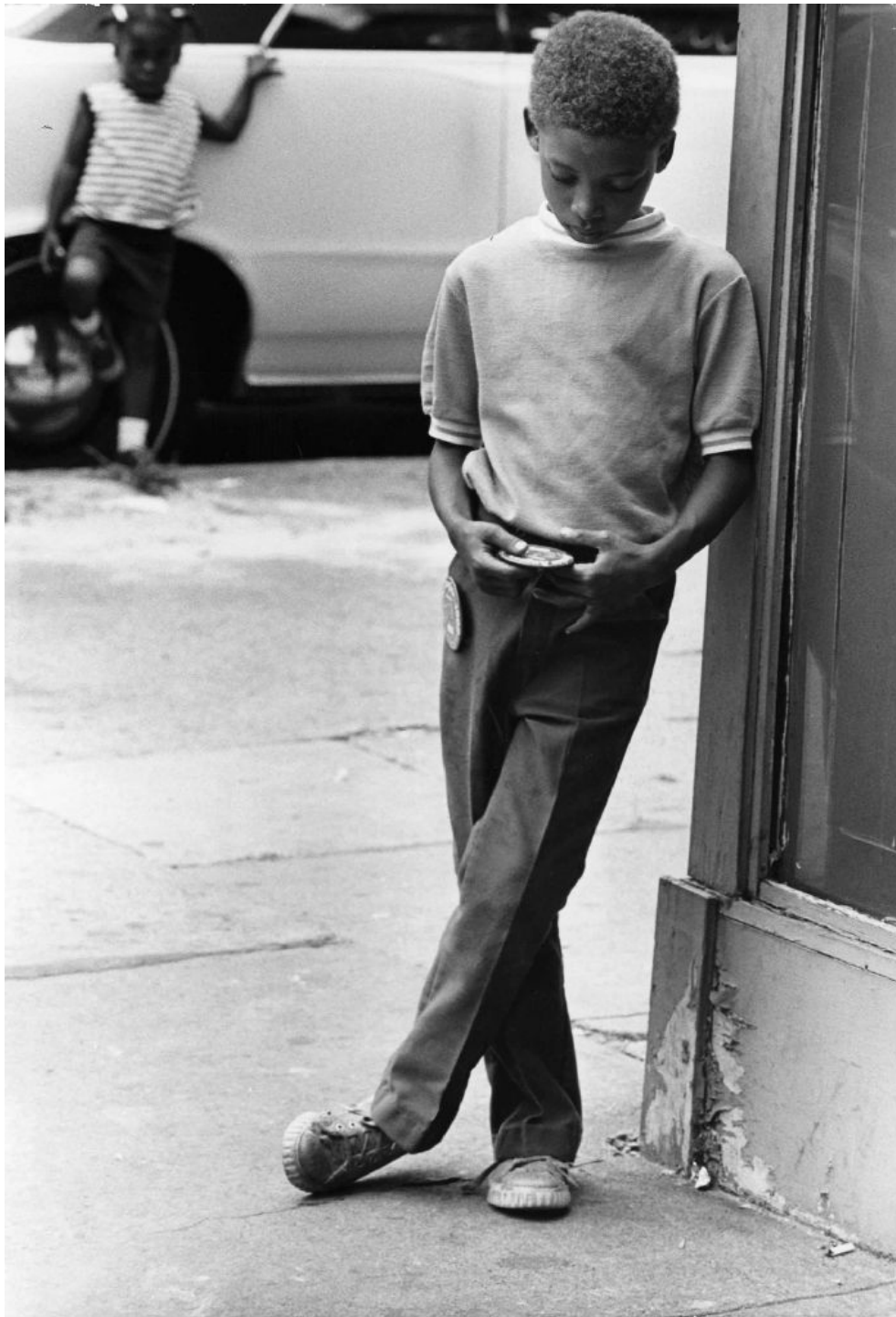
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*Bowery Denizen, 1985*

Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1985

10 x 7 in. (25.4 x 17.8 cm)

CHI-00073-SP



*Pondering, Harlem, 1969*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00111-SP

*Brooklyn Mosque, 1990*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00028-SP



*Young Family Strolling, Harlem, 1972*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1972  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00109-SP



*Father swinging son, Brooklyn, 1972*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1972  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00029-SP



*Five Points, Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, 1972*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1972  
6 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. (16.5 x 24.8 cm)  
CHI-00022-SP





*Water spray dancer, Harlem, 1969*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00120-SP



*Fashionable teens, Harlem, 1974*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1974  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00043-SP



*Lance and Lori, Manhattan, 1990*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00094-SP



*A queue of Stetson hats, Manhattan, 1985*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1985  
11 x 14 in. (27.9 x 35.6 cm)  
CHI-00105-SP



*Adele's, Harlem, 1974*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1994  
11 x 14 in. (27.9 x 35.6 cm)  
CHI-00133-SP



*Rainy Times Square, Manhattan, 1969*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1969  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00096-SP



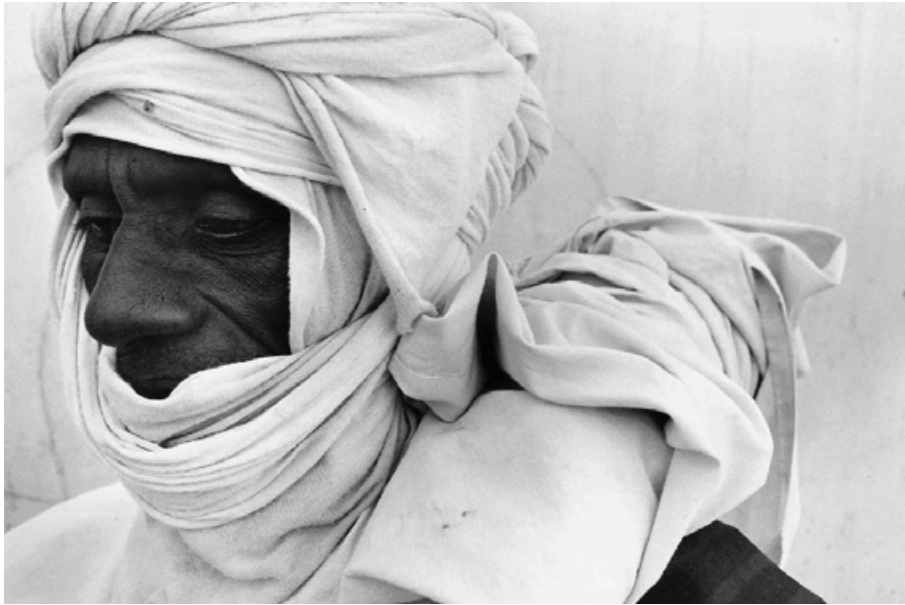


*A Young Muslim Woman in Brooklyn*, 1990  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 2005  
24 x 20 in. (61 x 50.8 cm)  
CHI-00020-SP



*Ouida, Manhattan, 1984*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1984  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00071-SP





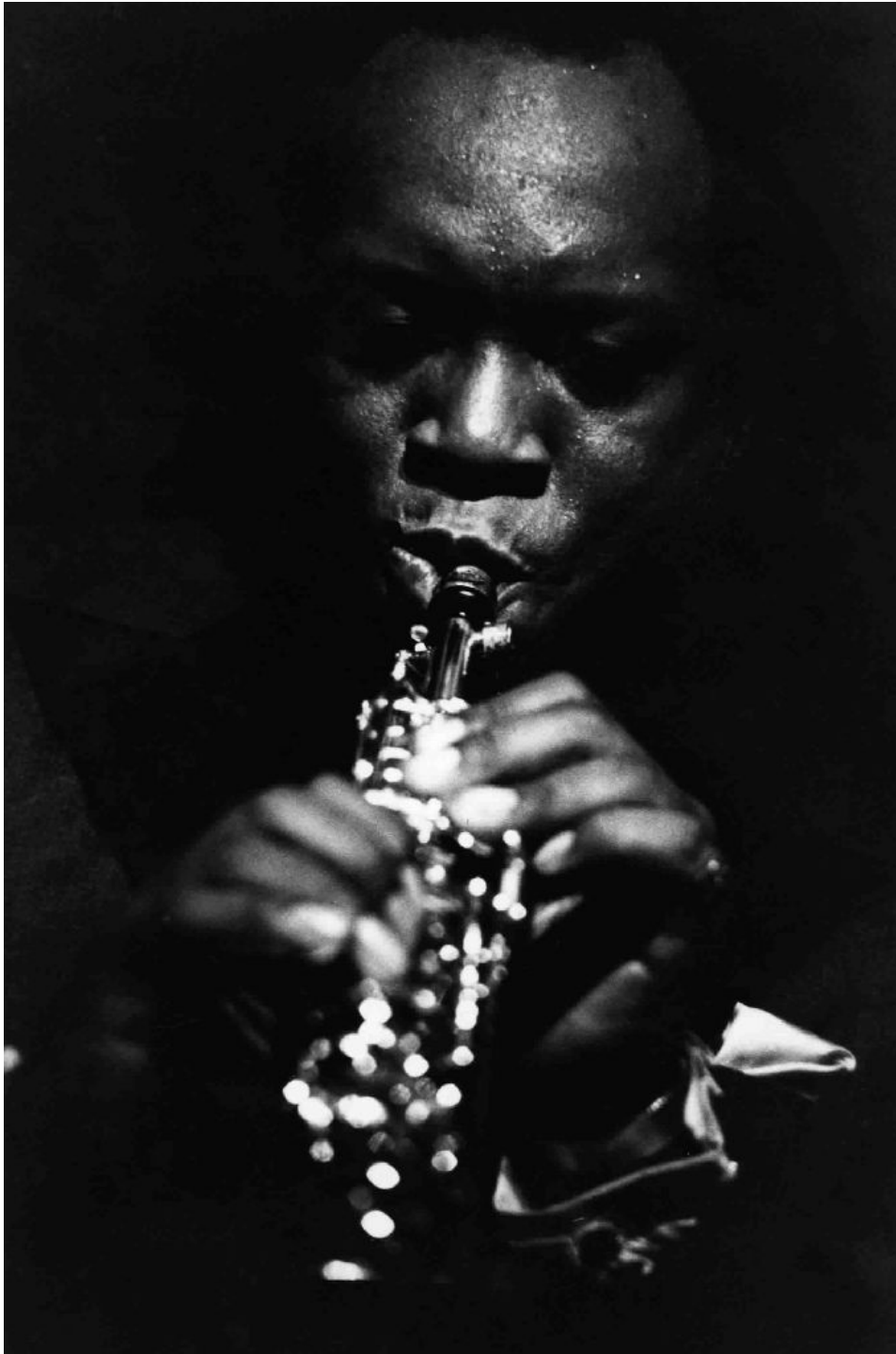
*Desert Wind Attire, Mopti, Mali, 1993*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1993  
11 x 14 in. (27.9 x 35.6 cm)  
CHI-00292-SP

*A woman in Dakar, Senegal,  
fashion capital of Africa, 1974*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1980s  
14 x 11 in. (35.6 x 27.9 cm)  
CHI-00296-SP





*Aretha Franklin at the Apollo, Harlem, New York, 1971*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1971  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00330-SP



*King Curtis at the Apollo, Harlem, New York, 1971*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1971  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00333-SP

*Billy Preston, singer, New York City, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1980  
6 3/4 x 9 3/4 in. (17.1 x 24.8 cm)  
CHI-00338-SP



*Bob Marley, Final Performance at Madison Square Garden, New York, 1980*

Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1981

10 x 12 in. (25.4 x 30.5 cm)

CHI-00327-SP



*Billy Eckstine, Chicago, Illinois, 1970*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1992  
11 x 14 in. (27.9 x 35.6 cm)  
CHI-00343-SP





*Madame Ba, Gorée, Dakar, Senegal, 1971*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1996  
11 1/2 x 17 1/2 in. (29.2 x 44.5 cm)  
CHI-00009-SP



*Traditional Dancer, Ghana, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
3 3/8 x 5 in. (8.6 x 12.7 cm)  
CHI-00238-SP



*Basin fishing, Accra, Ghana, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
11 x 14 in. (27.9 x 35.6 cm)  
CHI-00249-SP





*Ocean Spray, Accra, Ghana, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
3 3/8 x 5 in. (8.6 x 12.7 cm)  
CHI-00253-SP



*Cowrie Shells, Kumasi, Ghana, 1975*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1975  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00265-SP



*A serving dish, Ghana, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1992-1993  
20 x 24 in. (50.8 x 61 cm)  
CHI-00279-SP



*Egg Vendor, Ghana, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990s  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00261-SP



*Yoff, Senegal, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
14 x 11 in. (35.6 x 27.9 cm)  
CHI-00379-SP

*Gorée window, Dakar, Senegal, 1972*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990s  
10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.3 cm)  
CHI-00283-SP



*The Door of No Return, Gorée Island, Dakar, Senegal, 1972*

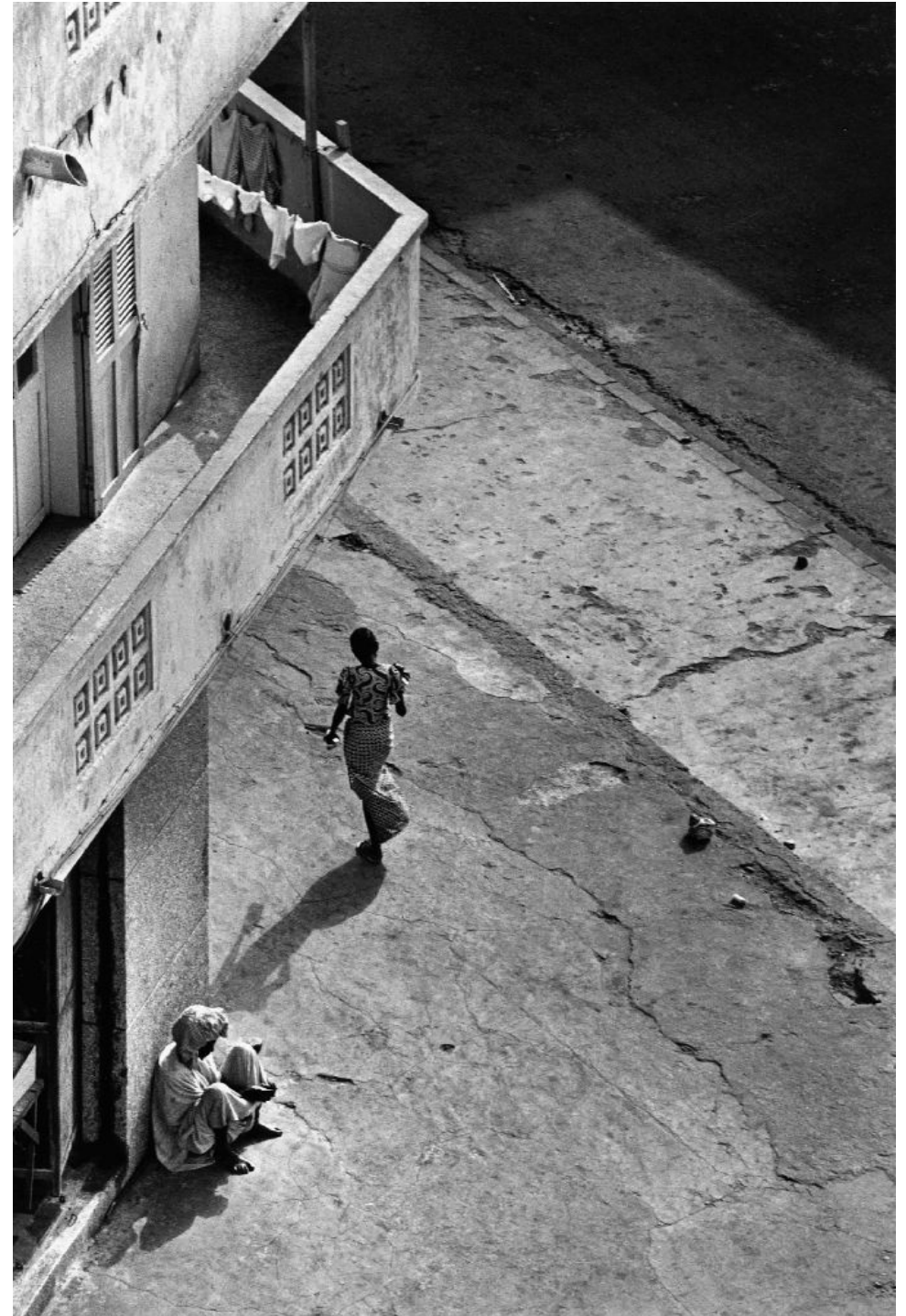
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1980s

16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)

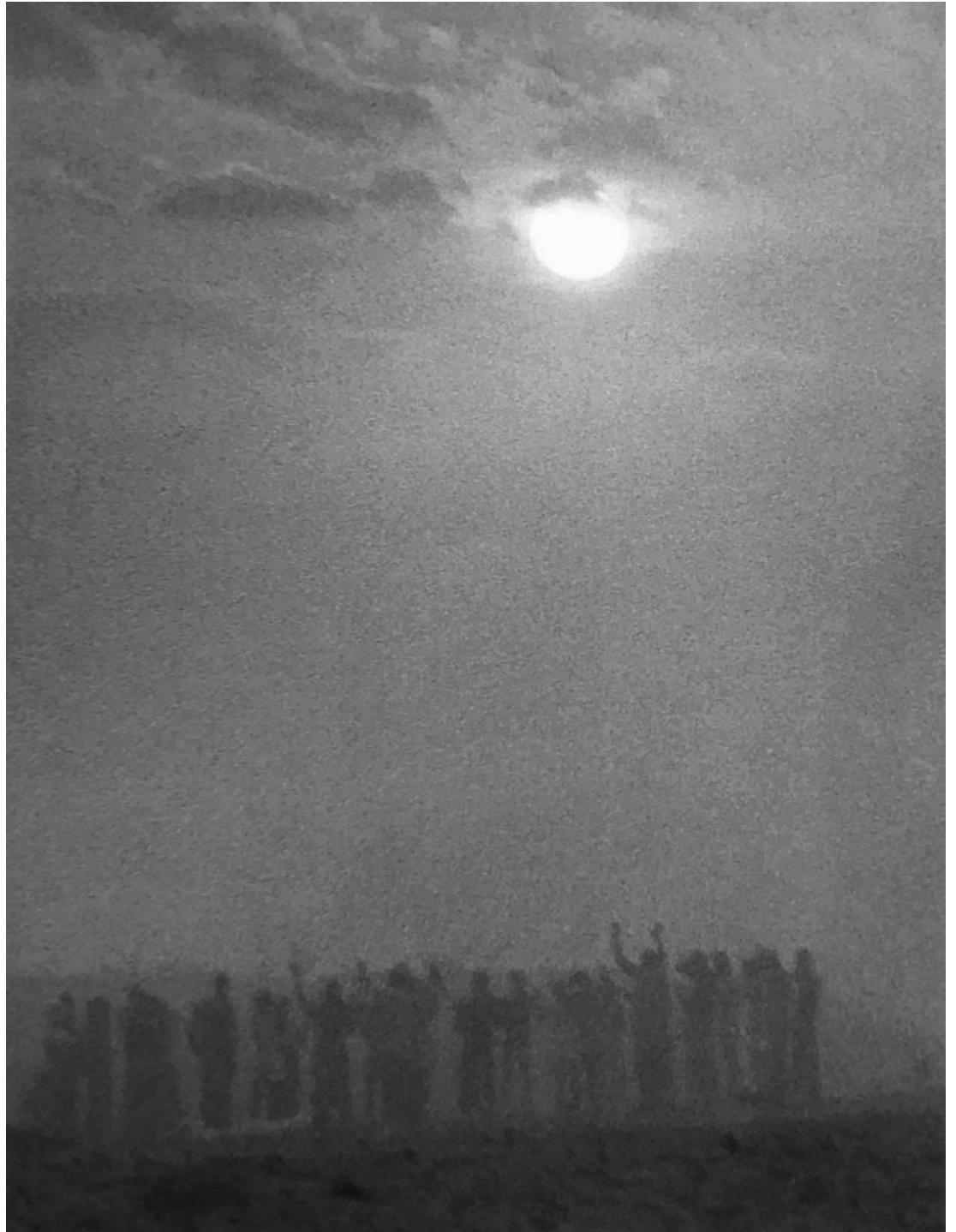
CHI-00006-SP



*Fishing Buddies, Yoff, Senegal, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1990s  
8 x 10 in. (20.3 x 25.4 cm)  
CHI-00288-SP

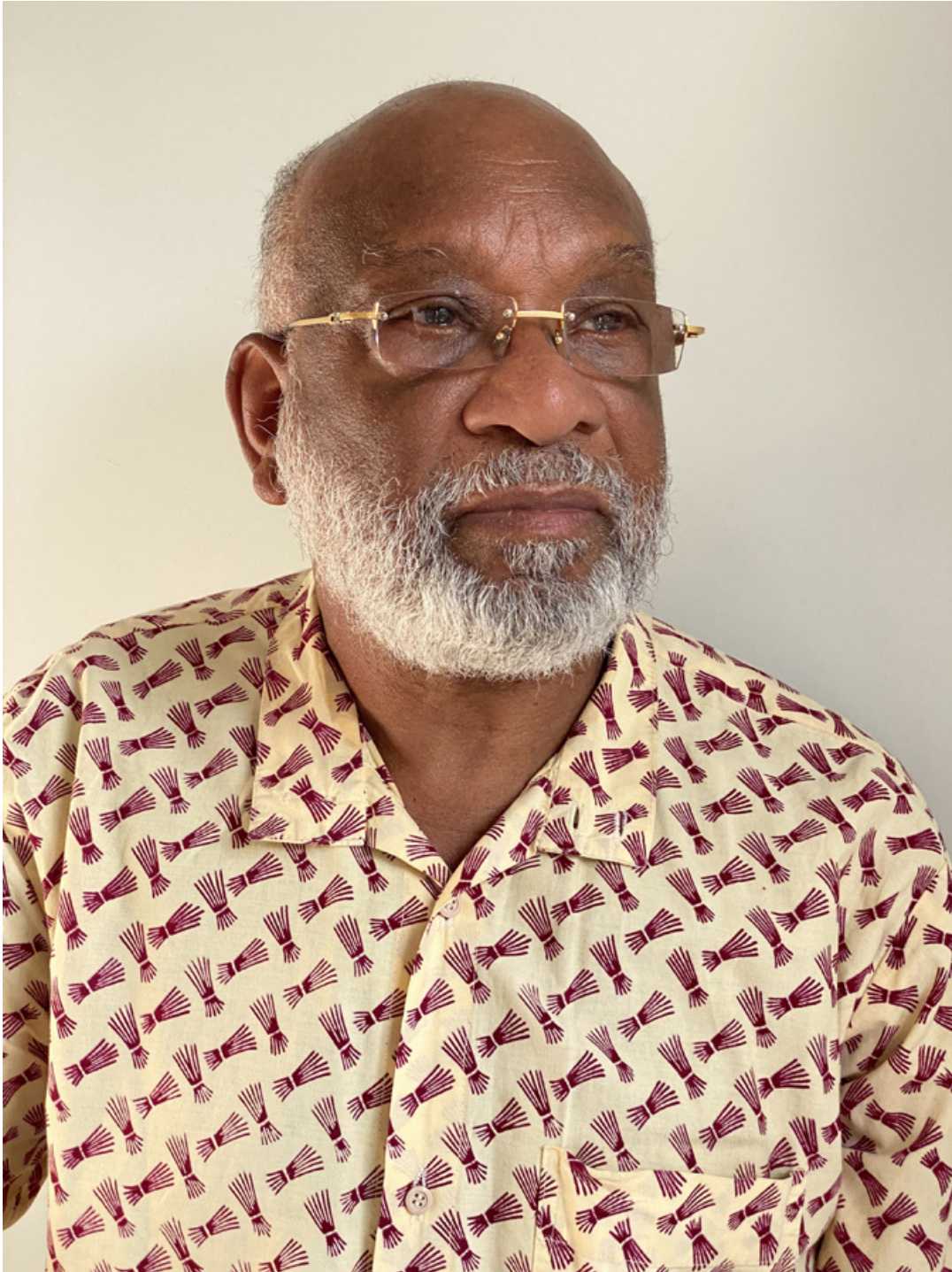


*Street Corner, Dakar, Senegal, 1988*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1988  
14 x 11 in. (35.6 x 27.9 cm)  
CHI-00282-SP



*Sunrise prayer on Osu Beach, Accra, Ghana, 1973*  
Gelatin silver print, printed c. 1973  
14 x 11 in. (35.6 x 27.9 cm)  
CHI-00243-SP





Photographer and author **Chester Higgins** was born in Alabama in 1946, and was formally educated at Tuskegee University, graduating in 1970. Experiences with his family's church community, as well as with college campus student protest, were formative in developing the direction Higgins's artistic practice. Higgins's oeuvre portrays the dignity of the African American and African diasporic communities, and this work has brought Higgins all over the world, and to Africa in particular, many times.

Higgins worked as a staff photographer for *The New York Times* from 1975 until 2014, and is the author of several publications, including *Black Woman* (1970); *Drums of Life* (1974); *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa* (1994); *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging* (2000); and *Echo of the Spirit: A Photographer's Journey* (2004). Higgins's work has been the subject of many international exhibitions, and is held in notable collections, such as The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, and The Brooklyn Museum of Art. Higgins lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Chester Higgins by Betsy Kissam



# Chronology

## Solo Exhibitions

2018 *Foot Soldiers of 1963*, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL

2018 *Chester Higgins*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA

2017 *Chester Higgins: Passing Through*, Sugar Hill Children's Museum, New York, NY

2015 *Chester Higgins: Zema*, Skoto Gallery, New York, NY

2014 *Chester Higgins: Unseen Spirit*, Arnika Dawkins Gallery, Atlanta, GA

2012 *My Soul Flies Home to Africa*, Art @ Tekserve Gallery, New York, NY

2011 *Stars of Ethiopia*, New York University's Kimmel Center Windows Gallery, New York, NY

2008 *Nubian Dreams: Images of Sudan*, Carlos Museum/Shatten Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

2007 *Family, Friends & Acquaintances*, Montgomery Museum of Art, Montgomery, AL

2005 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, The New York State Museum, Albany, NY

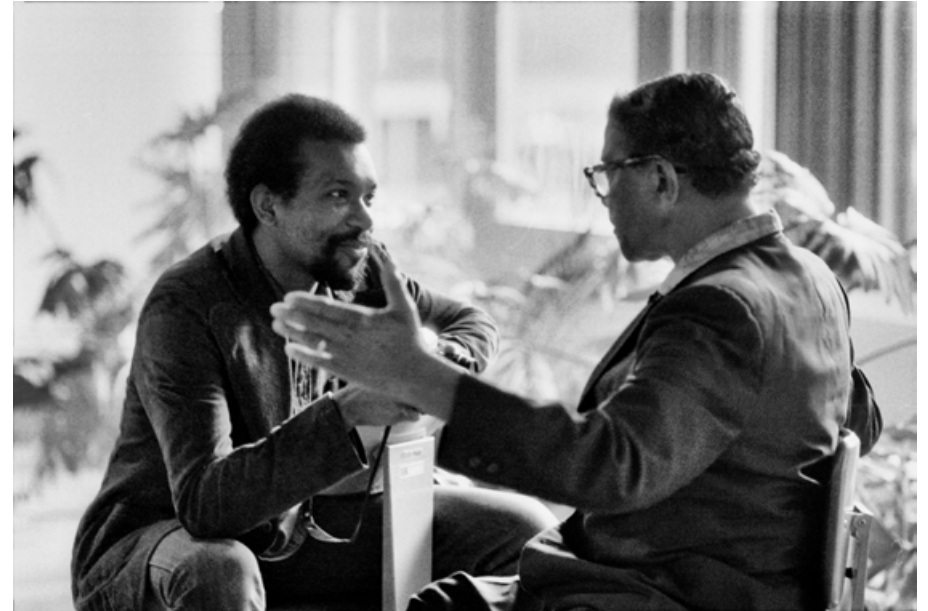
2004 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO

2003 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, The Philadelphia African American Museum, WI

2003 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library, New York, NY

2003 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, America's Black Holocaust Museum. Milwaukee, WI

2003 *Ghana: Yesterday and Today*, Musee Dapper, Paris, France



Chester Higgins and P.H. Polk, c. 1970, by Les Edwards



Gordon Parks, Chester Higgins and P.H. Polk, c. 1970

2003 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, National Library of Medicine. Bethesda, MD

2003 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI

2002 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Tubman African American Museum, Macon, GA

2002 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Bank of America Tower Gallery, Seattle, WA

2002 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, Jamaica, New York

2001 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL

2001 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Langston Hughes Library, Queens, NY

2001 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, King Arts Complex, Columbus, OH

2001 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Brooklyn Borough Hall, Brooklyn, NY

2001 *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Philadelphia, PA

2001 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, The New -York Historical Society, New York, NY

2001 *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, NYC /MTA, Arts for Transit, Lightbox Project42ndStreet/6thAve

2000 *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*, Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX

2000 *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*, University of Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, AK

2000 *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*, Smith Robertson Museum, Jackson, MI

1999 *A Society For All Ages: 1999 The Year of Aging*, The United Nations, New York, NY



Tony Vaccaro, Arthur Rothstein and Chester Higgins

1999 *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*, The Museum of African Art, New York, NY

1999 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, The Beach Institute, Savannah, GA

1999 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, African American Museum in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

1998 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Martin Luther King Jr., Arts Complex, Columbus, OH

1998 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN

1998 *Candomblè: Ancient Spiritual Worship of African Brazilian Sainthood*, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL

1998 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, CA

1997 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL

1997 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Smithsonian Museum, Center for African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.

1997 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, Smithsonian Museum, Center for African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.

1997 *Enduring Rhythms*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

1997 *Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey*, The Jewish Museum, New York, NY

1996 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Focus Hope Gallery, Detroit, MI

1996 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, National Afro—American Museum and Cultural Center at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH

1996 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ

- 1996 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Museum of African American History, African Meeting House, Boston
- 1996 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL
- 1996 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Peter Fetterman Gallery of Photographic Art, Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, CA
- 1996 *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- 1995 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, African American Museum, Dallas, TX.
- 1995 *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library, NY
- 1994 *A Legacy of Faith: Ethiopian Orthodoxy in America*, The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 1991 *Portraits of Romare Bearden: Memory and Metaphor*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
- 1979 *BlackWoman/Drums of Life*, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
- 1978 *Black Woman/Drums of Life*, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, La Fonte Circle, Washington, D.C.
- 1977 *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*, American Embassy Gallery, Berlin, Germany; Caracas, Venezuela
- 1976 *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*, American Embassy Gallery, Cologne, Germany; Georgetown, Guyana; Tuebingen, Germany; Stuttgart, Germany; Stockholm, Sweden; Kingston, Jamaica; Bogota, Columbia; Mexico City, Mexico; Hannover, Germany; Montevideo, Uruguay; Bridgetown, Barbados; Quito, Ecuador; Hamburg, Germany; Vienna, Austria; Lima, Peru; Guatemale, Guatemala; Santiago, Chile; San Jose, Costa Rica; Port of Spain, Trinidad; Munich, Germany; Naples, Italy; Managua, Nicaragua; Port Au Prince, Haiti; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Rome, Italy; Bonn, Germany
- 1975 *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*, American Embassy Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark; Athens, Greece; Rutland, Vermont; Champagny, France; Paris, France; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Mogadishu, Somalia; Nairobi, Kenya; Yaounde, Cameroon; Tananarive, Madagascar; Conakry, Guinea; Lome, Togo; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Accra, Ghana; Dakar, Senegal
- 1975 *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*, The Nigerian Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1974 *Chester Higgins Jr.*, National Urban League/United Negro College Fund Gallery
- 1974 *Drums of Life*, Acts of Art Gallery, New York, NY

## Permanent Collections (selected)

The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond; Vista Equity Partners, Austin, Texas; International Center of Photography, New York; Library of Congress, Washington, DC; The New York Public Library/ The Schomburg Center; The New York Times Company; Tuskegee University, Alabama; The Phelps-Stokes Fund; The Jewish Museum, New York; Oprah Winfrey Collection; The Buhl Fund; The Roosevelt Hospital, New York; Queens College, New York; Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, Alabama; The Brooklyn Museum of Art; Smithsonian, National Museum of Natural History

## Awards

Global Citizenship Award, International Youth Leadership Institute

The Gordon Parks Legend Award

Nubian Women's Art Circle Award

## Fellowships & Grants

International Center of Photography

The Ford Foundation

The National Endowment for the Arts

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Ford Foundation

The Andy Warhol Foundation/ICP

Open Society Institute



Chester Higgins, Hale Woodruff, Herbert Gentry, Romare Bearden (HAT) and Nanette Bearden at first NYC opening, Acts of Art Gallery on Charles Street in the West Village. 1974; photo by Les Edwards



Chester Higgins and Cornell Capa

**Carrie Springer** is an independent curator and writer. Formerly a curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Springer has worked on exhibitions there for almost twenty years, in a variety of media. Most recently, in 2020-2021, she oversaw the Whitney's installation of *Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop*. She also curated *Vantage Points: Contemporary Photography from the Whitney Museum* (for the Asheville Museum of Art); and *Robert Rauschenberg: Five Decades from the Whitney's Collection* (for the Norton Museum of Art) in 2020-2021. Springer has a particular expertise in photography and has organized exhibitions of the work of Harold Edgerton, Edward Steichen, contemporary photographers influenced by F. Holland Day, and others. Springer also worked with Robert Gober on *Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield*; and collaborated on exhibitions with Frank Stella, Sherrie Levine, and numerous other artists.



Portrait of Carrie Springer



BRUCE SILVERSTEIN