

Jenkins Johnson Gallery

Ming Smith

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Established 1996. Member AIPAD and the San Francisco Art Dealers Association

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MING SMITH

Ming Smith (b. 1947, Detroit, Michigan) documents everyday moments through her ethereal and transcendent vision, combining a deliberate blurriness with experimental post-production techniques including double exposed prints, collage, and painting, amplifying the works' dream-like qualities.

Smith was the first Black female photographer acquired by the Museum of Modern Art and the first female member of the influential Black photography collective, Kamoinge. She was one of the first African American women to break the color barrier in modeling alongside Grace Jones and Toukie Smith. Gordon Parks wrote of Smith, stating her “wonderous imagery... gives eternal life to things that might well have been forgotten.” Her works respond to the struggles of city living, while also celebrating the community and pride produced by it. Taking her camera with her as she travelled the world, these images are a chronicle of her discerning eye.

Ming Smith's previous group exhibitions include: Museum of Modern Art's "Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography"; Brooklyn Museum of Art's "We Wanted A Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85"; Smart Museum's "Down Time: On the Art of Retreat". Smith was featured in the traveling exhibitions: "Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power" opening at Tate Modern, and traveled to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Broad, de Young Museum and Museum of Fine Arts Houston; and "Arthur Jaffa: A Series of Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions", commencing at The Serpentine Gallery, London. Smith is currently in "Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop" which began at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and travels to the Whitney Museum of American Art, J. Paul Getty Museum, and Cincinnati Art Museum.

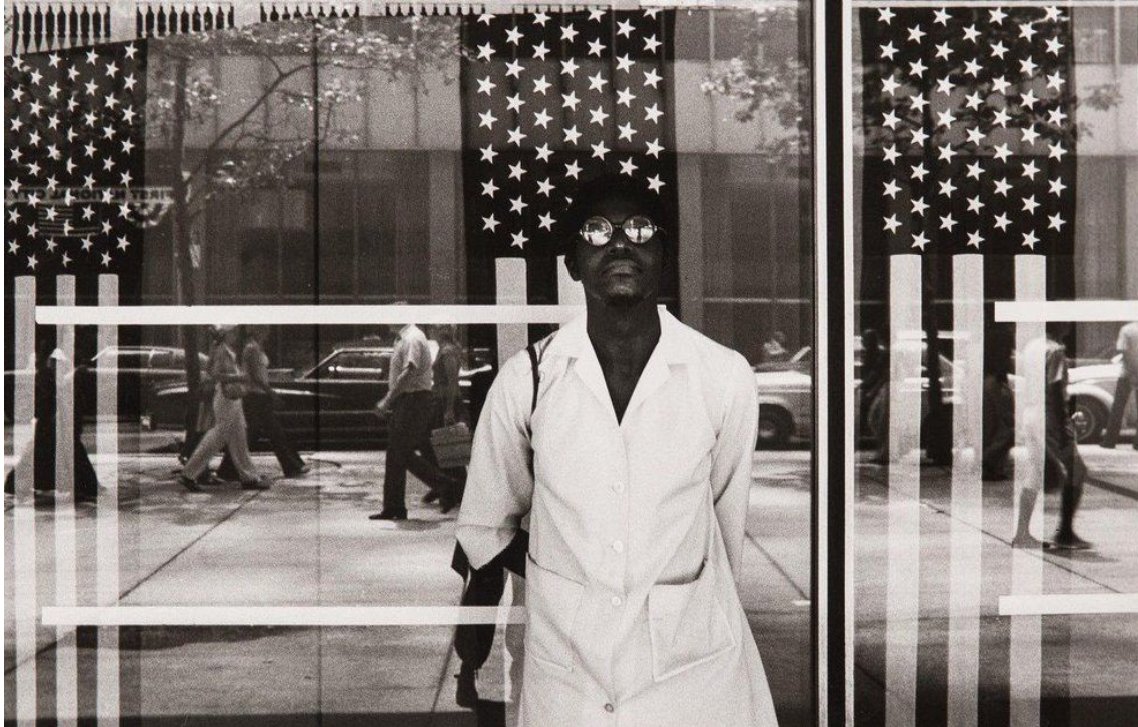
Smith is the recent recipient of the 2021 Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In November 2020, Ming Smith released her book, *Ming Smith: An Aperture Monograph*. Smith's work is in museum collections including the National Gallery of Art, J. Paul Getty Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Detroit Institute of Arts, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. We won the 2019 Frieze New York Stand Prize with our presentation of her work. Smith is a graduate of Howard University. She lives and works in New York City.



Ming Smith, *America Seen Through Stars and Stripes*, New York City, New York, 1976



Ming Smith, *Gordon Parks*, New York City, New York, 1991



Ming Smith
America Seen Through Stars and Stripes, New York City, NY, 1976
archival pigment print
24 x 36 inches
signed recto
edition of 7



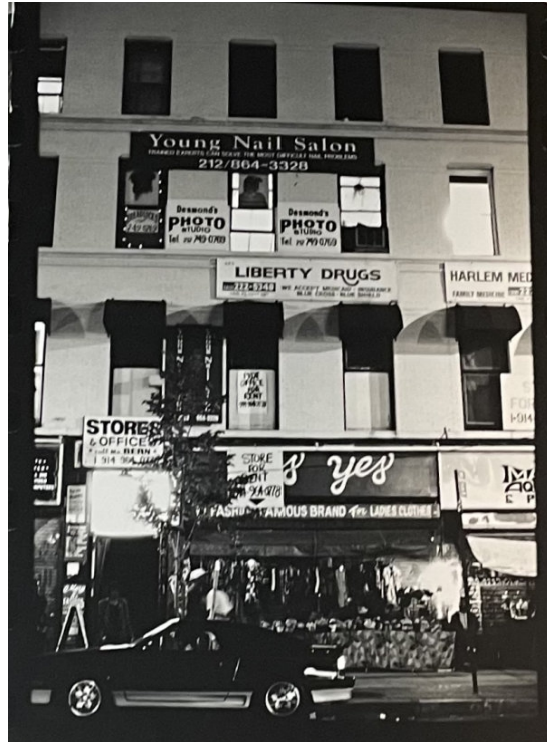
Ming Smith

Yes Harlem I, 1976

vintage gelatin silver print

8 x 10 inches

signed lower recto and verso



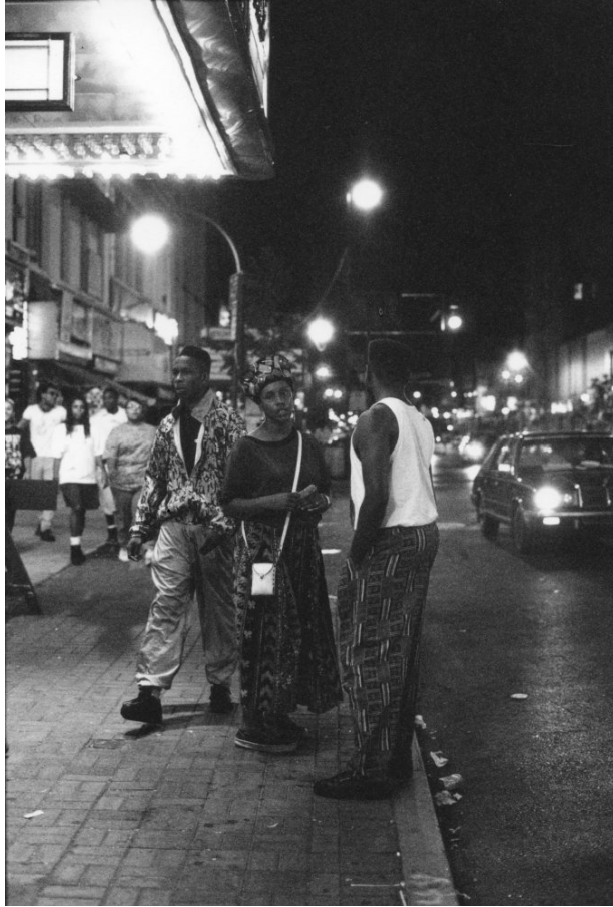
Ming Smith

Yes Harlem II, 1976

vintage gelatin silver print

8 x 10 inches

signed recto



Ming Smith

Apollo Crowd, (Invisible Man Series), 1988

gelatin silver print

10 x 8 inches



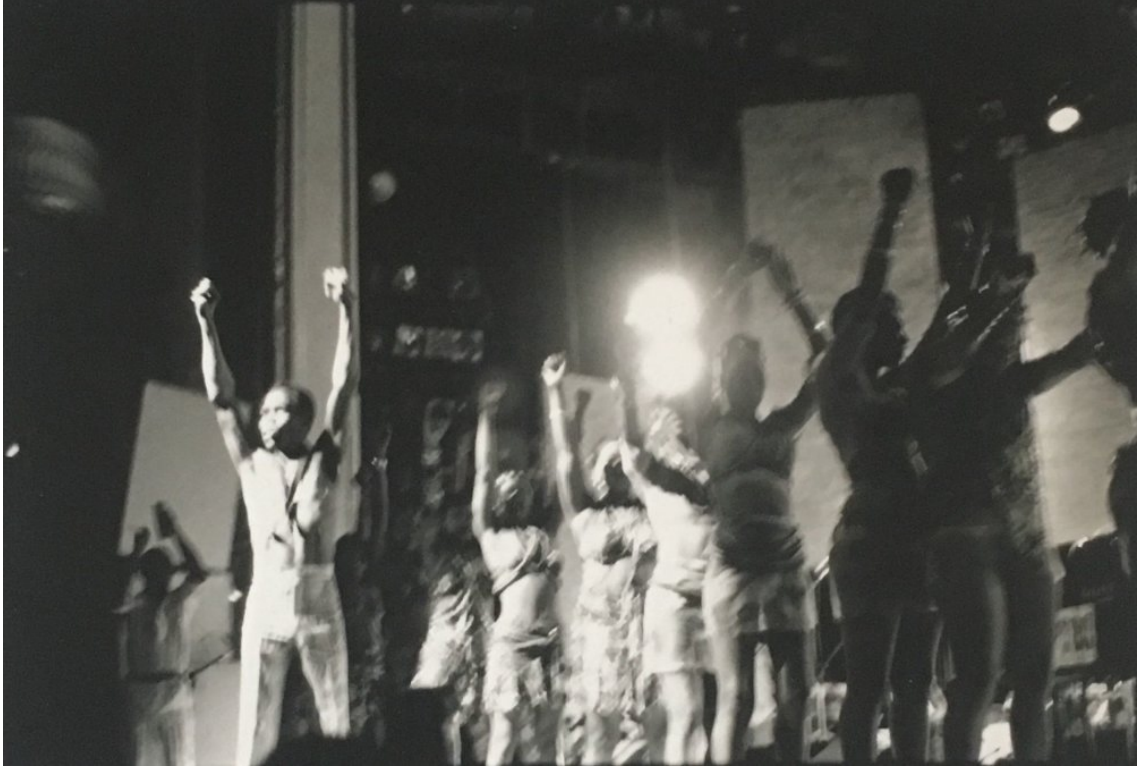
Ming Smith

The Black Jewels of the U.S.A. III, (Invisible Man Series), 1988

vintage gelatin silver print

8 x 10 inches

signed lower right



Ming Smith

Fela Kuti and Dancers II, 1989

gelatin silver print

8 x 10 inches

signed recto



Ming Smith

Past Any Reason for Song, Harlem, New York, (Invisible Man Series), 1988

gelatin silver print

8 x 10 inches

signed recto

MING SMITH

BORN:

Detroit, MI. Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION:

B.S. Howard University, Washington, D.C.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND COLLABORATIONS:

- 2020 *Painting with Light: The Photography of Ming Smith*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, England
- 2019 Paris Photo, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Paris, France
Frieze Masters, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, London, England
Frieze, New York, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 *Ming Smith*, Steven Kasher Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 *Ming Smith: Works from the Paul R. Jones Collection*, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2010 *Ming: Photographs: 1977-2008*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
- 2007 *Celebration Life: Photography as Fine Art*, Pounder-Kone Art Space, Atwater Village, CA
- 2003 *Ming Smith: Ming's Room*, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY
Ming Smith: In the Spirit: Invisible Woman, African American Museum in Philadelphia, PA
- 2002 *In the Spirit of Jazz, Ming Smith: 30 Year Retrospective*, Concourse Gallery, Upper Arlington, OH
- 2001 *Ming Smith: In the Spirit of Jazz*, Tribes Gallery, New York, NY
Ming's Room, Porter Troupe Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2000 *Ming*, Watt's Tower Art Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 1993 *Ming Smith: in a Minor Key*, Crawford and Sloan Gallery, New York, NY
- 1982 *Ming Smith*, Eric Turner Salon, New York, NY

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2021 Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2022 *Just Above Midtown*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (forthcoming)
- 2021 Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
Frieze London, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Online Viewing Room
The Armory Show, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
Frieze New York, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
South South Veza, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Virtual Exhibition
- 2020 *Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA. Traveling to: The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX.
Arthur Jafa: A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions (Featuring Ming Smith, Frida Orupabo, and Missylanyus), Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal.
Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Virtual Exhibition
Frieze London, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Virtual Exhibition
Paris Photo NY, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Virtual Exhibition

- The Armory Show, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
 FOG Design+Art, Fort Mason Center, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Winter Salon Part II, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Winter Salon Part 1, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 *Down Time: On the Art of Retreat*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
Arthur Jafa: A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions (Featuring Ming Smith, Frida Orupabo, and Missylanyus), Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Women's Work: Art & Activism in the 21st Century, Pen + Brush, New York, NY
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, The Broad, Los Angeles, CA
Dreamweavers, UTA Artist Space, Beverly Hills, CA
 UNTITLED, Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
 EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Family Pictures, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
Family Pictures, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
- 2017 *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power*, Tate Modern, London, UK
We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women 1965-85, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
States of America: Photography from the Civil Rights Movement to the Reagan Era, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Arthur Jafa: A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions (Featuring Ming Smith, Frida Orupabo, and Missylanyus), Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London, UK
Black Photographers Annual, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- 2014 *Photography Classics: NL=US Art, 1977-2008*, Schiedamsedijk 51 | Schilderstraat 5, 3011 ER Rotterdam, NL
- An Eye for Jazz: Featuring Hugh Bell, Jill Freedman, Ming Smith, Ken Van Sickle*, Curated by Yulia Tikhonova, Tikhonova & Winter Fine Art, New York, NY
2010. *Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- Kamoinge Photographers Group Show: In the Moment*, HP Gallery, Calumet Photo, New York, NY
- 2009 *Sound: Print: Record: African American*, Mechanical Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
- 2008 *New York City: In Focus*, Bellevue Hospital Center Atrium, New York, NY *16th Annual Exhibition: Creative Destinations 2008 Exhibition of African American Art*, Art in the Atrium, Morristown, NJ
- 2007 *BLACK and White on Black*, Photographic Gallery, New York, NY
Contemporary Afro-American Photography, Hilliard University Art Museum, Lafayette, LA
- 2006 *Kamoinge Inc: Black Music from Bebop to Hip Hop*, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY
- Harlem Photographers Present Images Dating Back to the Civil Rights Movement*, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *Contemporary Afro-American Photography*, Spelman College Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2004 *A Century of African American Art: The Paul R Jones Collection*, University Museum, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

- 2003 *Generations: An Exhibit of African American Art*, Art in the Atrium, Morristown, NJ
- 2002 *Original Acts: Photographs of African-American Performers from the Paul R. Jones Collection*, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
- Life of the City, An Exhibition in Answer to 2001*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 2000 *Reflections In Black: A History of Black Photographers 1840 to the Present*, organized by the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American Identity and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; traveling exhibition
- MOMA2000, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
1999. *Black New York Photographers of the Twentieth Century: Selections from the Schomburg Center Collections*, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY
- 1995 *Cultural Images: Sweet Potato Pie*, curated by Russell A. Murray, Art in the Atrium, Morristown, NJ
- 1989 *Ming Smith, Anthony Barboza, Adger W Cowans, Robert Hale and Deborah Willis*, Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, New York, NY
- 1984 *14 Photographers*, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY
- 1983 *Contemporary Afro-American Photography*, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, OH
- 1981 *Artists Who Do Other Art Forms*, Just Above Midtown Gallery, New York, NY
- 1980 *Self-Portrait*, The Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, traveled to the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, MA
- 1976 *Exposure: Work by Ten Photographers*, Creative Artists Public Service Program, New York, NY
- 18 Caps Photographers*, Columbia University, New York, NY
- 1974 *Kamoinge group show*, International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- 1972 *Kamoinge group show*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- Kamoinge group show*, Guyana, South America

COLLECTIONS:

AT&T Corporate Art Collection
Baltimore Museum of Art
The Block Museum
Brooklyn Museum of Art
Detroit Institute of Arts
The Museum of Fine Arts Boston
J. Paul Getty Museum
JP Morgan Chase Collection
The Museum of Modern Art
The Studio Museum in Harlem
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
The National Gallery of Art
Philadelphia Museum of Art
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
Whitney Museum of American Art
Williams College Museum

AWARDS:

2020 Aperture Honor – Trailblazing Women in Photography

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- 2020 “Ming Smith: An Aperture Monograph” *Aperture*
 1992 “A Ming Breakfast: Grits and Scrambled Moments” *De Ming Dynasty*

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 Alelli, Vince. “Questa Non E Una Fotografia Di Moda. Ming Smith.” *Vogue Italia*, 14 February 2021. Online.
 Latimer, Bronwen, and Anthony Barboza. “Anthony Barboza and the Kamoinge Workshop.” *The Washington Post*, 12 February 2021. Online.
 Schwabsky, Barry. “The Unknown Radicals of Black Photography.” *The Nation*, 15 January 2021. Online.
 Valentine, Victoria L. “Culture Type: The Year in Black Art 2020.” *Culture Type*, 9 January 2021. Online.
 Sayej, Nadja. “The Kamoinge Legacy: The Black Photographers Who Changed The Game.” *The Guardian*, 7 January 2021. Online.
- 2020 Valentine, Victoria L. “Culture Type Picks: 15 Best Black Art Books of 2020.” *Culture Type*, 31 December 2020. Online.
 Mitter, Siddhartha. “Take Beautiful Pictures of Our People.” *The New York Times*, 22 December 2020. Online.
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 “Ming Smith: An Aperture Monograph.” *Aperture*, November 2020. Print.
 Beckert, Michael. “Ming Smith on Befriending Grace Jones and a Lifetime of Artistry.” *W Magazine*, 19 October 2020. Online.
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 Schaller, Allison, and Danielle Walsh. “11 of Fall’s Best Coffee-Table Books to Fill the Art-Shaped Hole in Your Heart.” *Vanity Fair*, 3 September 2020. Online.
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11 June 2020. Online.

Allnutt, Chris. "Snapshot: 'Painting with Light: The Photography of Ming Smith.'" *Financial Times*, 29 May 2020. Online.

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Cohen, Alina. "The 10 Best Booths at The Armory Show." *Artsy*, 5 March 2020. Online.

Editors, "Photography Archive of Shawn Walker and a Collection of Harlem Photography Workshop Acquired by Library of Congress." *The Charleston Chronicle*, 24 February 2020. Online.

Editors, "ARTnews in Brief," *ARTnews*, 18 February 2020. Online.

Fight Underrepresentation in the Art World." *The Washington Post*, 7 February 2020. Online.

2019 Moreira-Brown, Caira, "Top 5 Gems at EXPO," *FAD Magazine*, 8 October 2019. Online.

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Garage Magazine Editors, "Our Ten Favorite Places at Frieze and Beyond," *Garage*, 6 October 2019. Online.

Alblas, Ezelle, "Frieze Masters 2019," *The Upcoming*, 4 October 2019. Online.

Halperin, Julia, "Art Dealers at Frieze Masters Are Hustling to Make Sales Despite Low Supply of High-Quality Works," *Artnet News*, 2 October 2019. Online.

Rees, Lucy, "The Artistic Director of Frieze Masters Opens Up About This Year's Fair," *Galerie Magazine*, 2 October 2019. Online.

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Reinders, Samantaha, "Marvelous Ming!" *Photo District News*, 30 September 2019. Online.

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Laster, Paul, "10 Artists to Rediscover in Spotlight at Frieze Masters in London," *Galerie Magazine*, 29 September 2019. Online.

Gerlis, Melanie, "Frieze Masters broadens its horizons," *Apollo*, 27 September 2019. Online.

Shaw, Amy, "Ming Smith: 'Being a Black Woman Photographer was like Being Nobody,'" *Financial Times*, 26 September 2019. Online.

Jansen, Charlotte, "How Fair Is Frieze London 2019?" *Elephant*, 25 September 2019. Online.

Cossons, Malcolm, "How to get the most out of Frieze in 2,564 steps," *Christie's*, 25 September 2019. Online.

Valentine, Victoria L, "Frieze New York: Booth Prizes Go to Galleries Showing Works by Photographer Ming Smith and Artist Jonathan Lyndon Chase," *Culture Type*, 15 May 2019. Online.

Sawyer, Drew, "Ming Smith's 'Strange Fruit' reveals the specters of American history," *Document Journal*, 9 May 2019. Online.

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Rosen, Miss, "Photographer Dawoud Bey on the brilliant art and mind of David Hammons," *Dazed*, 8 May 2019. Online.

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- Scott, Andrea K, “Project Eats and Other Highlights from the Frieze Art Fair,” *The New Yorker*, 4 May 2019. Online.
- Greene, April, “‘Women’s Work,’ Artfully Revisited and Redefined,” *Hyperallergic*, 3 May 2019. Online.
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- Valentine, Victoria L, “Scenes from Frieze New York: A Look at African American Art Throughout the Fair,” *Culture Type*, 3 May 2019. Online.
- “Frieze New York: Jenkins Johnson awarded Stand Prize & Company win Frame Prize,” *Art Daily*, 3 May 2019. Online.
- “Jenkins Johnson Gallery wins Frieze’s Stand Prize,” *ArtForum*, 2 May 2019. Online.
- Rosen, Miss, “Pioneer Artist & Model Ming Smith Reflects on a Life in Photography,” *Feature Shoot*, 2 May 2019. Online.
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- “Frieze New York Launches 2019 Edition Without A Hitch,” *Artlyst*, 2 May 2019. Online.
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- Freeman, Nate, “This Dealer Fought for African-American Artists for Decades—Now the Market is Paying Attention,” *Artsy*, 1 May 2019. Online.
- Sheets, Hilarie, “How One Contrarian Art Dealer Created Space for Black Artists Decades Before the White Art World Cared at All,” *Artnet News*, 1 May 2019. Online.
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- “Special Section at Frieze Will Pay Tribute to New York’s Historic Just Above Midtown Gallery,” *ArtForum*, 19 April 2019. Online.
- Chiaverina, John, “Franklin Sirmans to Curate Special Frieze New York Section Dedicated to Pioneering New York Gallery Just Above Midtown,” *ArtNews*, 18 April 2019. Online.
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- Valentine, Victoria L, “Art on the Backlot: Scenes and Sales from the Inaugural Edition of Frieze Los Angeles,” *Culture Type*, 22 February 2019. Online.
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