Ming Smith

b. 1947, Detroit, MI
Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION

1973 B.S. Howard University, Washington, D.C.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem – Notations in Blue,* Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME, February 6 – June 7, 2026 (traveling exhibition)

2025 *Ming Smith: I Paint With Light*, M77 Gallery, Milan, IT

2024 *Ming Smith: Feeling the Future*, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
Ming Smith: Wind Chime Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH
Ming Smith: August Moon, Columbus Museum of Art, OH
Ming Smith: Transcendence, Columbus Museum of Art, OH
Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem – Notations in Blue, The Gund at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH (traveling exhibition)
Ming Smith: On the Road, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY
Ming Smith: Feeling the Future, The International African American Museum (IAAM), Charleston, SC (traveling exhibition)

2023 *Ming Smith: Feeling the Future,* Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH), Houston, TX (traveling exhibition)
Ming Smith: Catching the Light, ART IS BOND and Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston, TX
Projects: Ming Smith, curated by Thelma Golden and Oluremi C. Onabanjo, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY

2022 *A Dream Deferred,* Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK

2021 *Ming Smith: Here For a Reason*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY
Ming Smith: Evidence, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY

2020 *Painting with Light: The Photography of Ming Smith,* Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK (online)

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 (AAMP), 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

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Resonance,* Vanderbilt in Venice, Fondazione Giorgio e Armanda Marchesani, Venice, Italy, May 10 – July 10, 2026
Photography as a Way of Life: Minor White, Aason Siskind, and Harry Callahan, Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ, April 19 – September 7, 2026
Photography and the Black Arts Movement, 1955-1985, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA, February 24 – June 14, 2026; Traveled to The Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS, July 25 – November 8, 2026
America Will Be!, The Driskell Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD,

February 8 – May 8, 2026
For Which it Stands…, Fairfield Art Museum, Fairfield, CT, January 23 – July 25, 2026

2025 *Photography and the Black Arts Movement, 1955-1985*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, September 21, 2025 – January 11, 2026 (traveling exhibition)
Sixties Surreal, 1958-1972, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Arthur Jafar- Less is Morbid, the MoMA, New York, NY
Paris Noir: Artistic circulations and anti-colonial resistance, 1950-2000, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR

2024 *Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, 1876–Now,* The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

2023 *Iconoclasts: Selections from Glenstone's Collection,* Glenstone, Potomac, MD
Going Dark: The Contemporary Figure at the Edge of Visibility, curated by Ashley James and Faith Hunter, Soloman R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

2022 *Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop*, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA
ROCK MY SOUL II, curated by Sir Isaac Julien, Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, SE
BLACK VENUS, curated by Aindrea Emelife, Fotografsika, New York, NY; Traveled to the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), San Francisco, CA (2023) and Somerset House, London, UK (2023)
Image Gardeners, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

2021 *South South Veza,* Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY (online)

2020 *Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop*, Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA; Traveled to the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY and the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
Winter Salon Part II, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2019 *Winter Salon Part I*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Down Time: On the Art of Retreat, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Women's Work: Art & Activism in the 21st Century, Pen + Brush, New York, NY
Dreamweavers, UTA Artist Space, Beverly Hills, CA

NICOLA VASSELL

2018 *Family Pictures,* Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; *Family Pictures,* Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI

2017 *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power*, Tate Modern, London, UK; Traveled to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR (2018); Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY (2018); The Broad, Los Angeles, CA (2019); de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA (2019) and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX (2020)
We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women 1965-85, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; Traveled to the California African American Museum (CAAM), Los Angeles, CA (2017); Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY (2018) and Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Boston, MA (2018)
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, Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London, UK; Traveled to Julia Stoschek Foundation, Berlin, DE (2018); Prague, CZ (2019); Moderna Museet, Stockholm, SE (2019) and Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, PT (2020)
A Commitment to the Community: Black Photographers Annual, Volume I, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), Richmond, VA

2014 *An Eye for Jazz: Featuring Hugh Bell, Jill Freedman, Ming Smith, Ken Van Sickle*, Curated by Yulia Tikhonova, Tikhonova & Wintner Fine Art, New York, NY

2010 *Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography,* organized by Roxana Marcoci, curated by Sarah Meister and Eva Respini, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY
Kamoinge: In the Moment, HP Gallery at Calumet Photo, New York, NY

2009 *Sound:Print:Record: African American Legacies,* Mechanical Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

2008 *New York City: In Focus*, Bellevue Hospital Center Atrium, New York, NY
Creative Destination: 16th Annual Exhibition of African American Art, curated by Russell A. Murray, 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

NICOLA VASSELL

2006 *Kamoinge Inc. Black Music: From Bebop to Hip Hop*, co-curated by Danny Simmons and Mark Lee Blackshear, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), 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*, curated by Russell A. Murray, 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 (MoMA), New York, NY

2000 *Reflections In Black: A History of Black Photographers 1840 to the Present*, curated by Deborah Willis, Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Museum and Center for African American Identity and Culture Washington, DC; Traveled to America's Black Holocaust Museum, Milwaukee, WI (2000); American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO (2000); Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI (2001); The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY (2001); Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH (2002); DuSable Museum, Chicago, IL (2002); First Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN (2003) and African American Museum, Philadelphia, PA (2004)

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, NY; *Self-Portrait*, Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA

1976 *Exposure: Work by Ten Photographers*, Creative Artists Public Service Program (CAPS), New York, NY
18 CAPS Photographers, Columbia University, New York, NY

1974 *Kamoinge group show*, International Center of Photography (ICP), New York, NY

1972 *Kamoinge group show*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY *Kamoinge group show*, The University of Guyana, Georgetown, GY

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AWARDS

2023 Honoree, Achievement in Portraiture, Lucie Awards
Lifetime Achievement, The New York International Center of Photography (ICP)

COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, CA
AT&T Corporate Art Collection, New York, NY
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MA
Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX
Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
Cincinnati Art Museum, OH
Columbus Museum of Art, OH
The Davis Museum at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY
Glenstone, Potomac, MD
Harvard Art Museums, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA
JP Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York, NY
The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY

The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) Boston, MA
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), Richmond, VA
The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
The National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.
Nion McEvoy Collection (formerly the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA)
Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Williams College Museum, Williamstown, MA