



REGINALD L. JACKSON

African Extensions:
A Photographic Search
for African Survivals
in The Americas

BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

John A. and Helen P. Becker Gallery

7-22 March 1981

Co-sponsored by the
AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

The purpose of the work in which I am currently involved is to show in concrete terms (using graphic arts, film photography, and print material) that Africanisms do, in fact, exist in the Americas and in the Caribbean. Understanding how they manifest themselves will support the concept of the durability, depth, and perseverance of African culture with an end to understanding the Afro-American experience.

The concept of cross-cultural influences and accommodations speaks to sharing and/or broadening — perhaps rejecting — forms of expression that take place when one culture meets another culture. West Africa has been the focus of my visual study and documentation since 1970. I have recorded close to 35,000 color and black and white images on West Africa alone.

My work in Brazil (Salvador, Bahia, and Sau Paulo) has led to a comprehensive study of African religious survivals as demonstrated in the Afro-Brazilian religion, the Candomble. A soon-to-be-completed 30-minute color film of this vital form of expression of African survivals and a series of 40 images, which I term "Afro-Ethnographs," help bring together important philosophical and technical concerns. They represent the "culmination of any effort that comes about through vigorous research from an Afro-centric perspective of Black people that successfully raises key cultural concerns and utilizes the highest level of artistic excellence in the mastery of the medium and materials peculiar to photographic art."

Reginald Jackson is Associate Professor of Art at Simmons College.

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Thursday 12 March 1981

3:00-5:00 pm Becker Art Gallery. Reception for the Artist.

7:30-9:00 pm Daggett Lounge. Lecture/slide presentation. "Festac '77 and Current Research on African Survivals in the Americas (Brazil, Cuba and U.S.A.)"

The Fishermen Series #1, 1978

The Fishermen Series #3, 1978

The Fishermen Series #6, 1978

The Fishermen Series #7, 1978

The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series #1, 1980

The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series #2, 1980

The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series #4, 1980

The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series/The African Meeting House #1, 1980

Oshunmare Transformation — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979

Messias as Oshunmare — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979

Yansa, The Storm Goddess — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979

Umolu, Protectorate Against Pestilence and the Plague (Smallpox) — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979

Oshunmare, The Rainbow Queen — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979

No Credit Please, 1970

Unity, 1970

Tom Jones, 1974

Imani, 1976

Senegalese Performers — Festac Series, 1978

The Benin Ceremonial Mask — Festac Series, 1978

All works lent by Reginald Jackson, Dorothy Denniston, Marcia Holford, and Elizabeth Rawlins.

JACKSON

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The Library