

The Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library
Medgar Evers College, CUNY presents
Provocateurs Series II

TELLING OUR STORY



Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library
at Medgar Evers College, CUNY
1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Photography Exhibition
February 21-April 10, 2019
Opening Reception: February 25, 6:00pm



Provocateur Series II

TELLING OUR STORY

Telling Our Story, the second of the Provocateur series, is a compilation of profoundly engaging images of people of the African diaspora. The photographs explore the diversity, beauty, celebrations, and styles influenced by the mix of histories, cultures, traditions, spiritualities, and economics.

Through these images, that were taken across three continents –Africa, North America, Europe, and the Caribbean– viewers will witness similar narratives to their personal and familial journeys, challenges, and victories.

The five featured photographers in *Telling Our Story* include Salimah Ali, Dante Bowen, Hollis A. King, Régine Romaine, and Marcia E. Wilson. Their images were selected to explore our cultural narrative and connect us to our global selves.

–Marcia E. Wilson, curator

SALIMAH ALI

"Seconds Count Like Moments In Time"



Salimah Ali, "Mirror-Mirror"

Salimah Ali has always processed the spirit of creativity. She began her career as a photographer and poet in the 70s when her father, who was also an artist, gifted her a camera. Ali's work has taken her around the world, but New York remains the center of her photographic practice. Her images are a celebration of life, joy, and the moments that pass by in the commotion of everyday life. Salimah uses her eye to voice her words and share her vision with the world through images in books, publications, newspapers, and numerous venues.

Salimah Ali was born in Harlem, New York in 1954. Subsequently, her family moved to South Jamaica Houses aka "40 Projects" in Queens. At age 18, Ali moved out on her own with her child. She still resides in Jamaica, Queens. Ali has been a member of the Black photography organization Kamoinge, Inc. since 2005.

Instagram @Salimah1

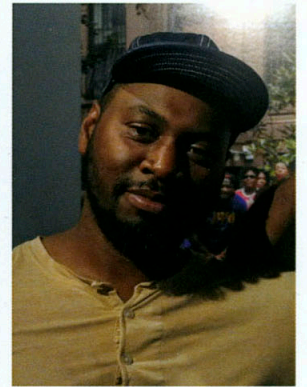


DANTE BOWEN

"It had been a lifelong passion for me, but sometimes life gets in the way,"



Dante Bowen, "Invoking The Third Eye"



As a young boy, Dante Bowen developed an interest in foreign cultures after his uncle left a globe at his house. Bowen, who was born in Guyana, South America, recalls how he would play a game where he would spin the globe and wherever his finger landed he would try to learn as much about that country as possible –its capital, industries, and cultures.

At age 14, he received a camera as a gift from his step-mother. Immediately, he stepped into the role of family documentarian, capturing the important events and family functions –rarely was he seen without his camera in hand. At age 16, his family migrated to Brooklyn where he finished high school, and then went on to graduate from Medgar Evers College with a bachelors degree in Business Administration. Bowen then began working full-time at his father's shipping company.

During this time, photography became a pastime, an escape. In his leisure, he cultivated a greater understanding of camera operation and film development. But it

wasn't until age 30, when he went back to Guyana to visit family and his aunt remarked, "I see you still have that camera in your hands; some things never change." It dawned on him that throughout his life there had been one constant –his love of photography. "It had been a lifelong passion for me, but sometimes life gets in the way," said Dante. At that point, he decided to pursue photography full-time. He took photography courses and attended seminars at the International Center for Photography. "It's been a joy being reunited with photography, because I'm finally doing something I truly love."

Dante's photographic thumbprint is distinct. In so many ways, his work has matured, but remains consistent in referencing the innocence of his childhood. Conveying no less than the same attention, sincerity, and wide-eyed curiosity of that same little boy who marveled at the world around him.

Instagram: @infernophotos

RÉGINE ROMAIN

"I am accountable to those who came before, the living and to those who follow to keep our narratives of the black diaspora heard and seen. Vodou Roots is my love story."

Régine Romain is a dynamic storyteller who uses photography, film, and performance to create acts of social resistance to stoke the collective imagination and keep alive new ways of seeing. From 2016 to 2018, Régine lived in Benin, West Africa, conducting research, teaching, completing her mixed-media project "Brooklyn to Benin: A Vodou Pilgrimage," and directing and producing three short films. While in West Africa, she created the WaWaWa Diaspora Centre to actively heal historic wounds and trauma related to the TransAtlantic Slave Trade through inter-generational arts, education, and exchange programs.

Régine is a 2018 EMERGENYC Fellow at New York University's Hemispheric New York Emerging Performers Program and is a BRIC 2018 Brooklyn Free Speech Podcast Fellow. In September 2018, Régine launched a new podcast entitled "Vodou Roots: A Love Story Musical" via BRIC's Podcast Fellowship available via iTunes and SoundCloud.

Her photographic work on Vodou appears in *MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora* (2017) and the accompanying exhibition *Altar: Prayer, Ritual, Offerings at Photoville* (2018).

As a consultant, Régine has over 20 years of experience teaching, training, and supporting diverse populations with clients that include New York University, NYC Department of Education, Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project, the Smithsonian Institution, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, *Through A Lens Darkly* documentary, and Mind-Builders Community Folk Culture Program.

Régine received her BS in International Studies from Bowie State University (HBCU) and MA in Photography and Urban Culture from Goldsmiths, University of London.

Contact: WaWaWaDiaspora@gmail.com



Régine Romain, VODOU ROOTS Series "Untitled," Savalou, Benin (2016)



HOLLIS A. KING

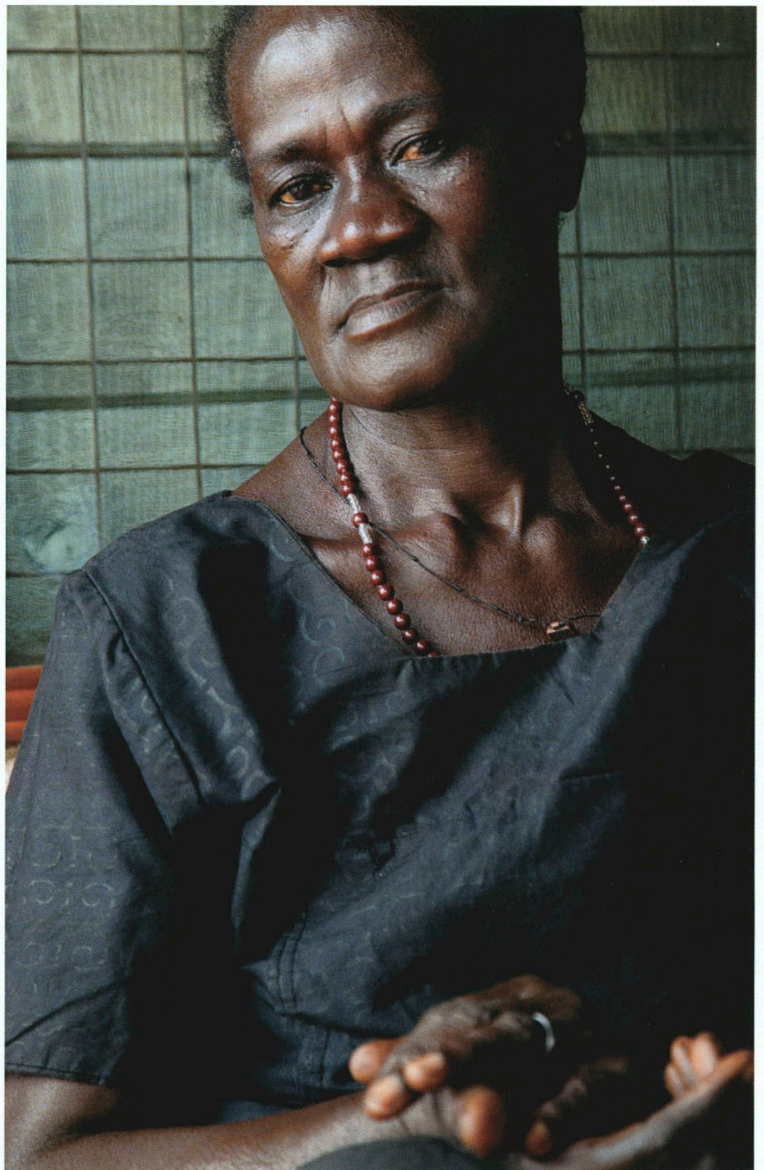
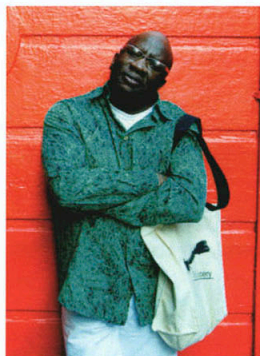
"As a creative director, I get to come up with an idea in my head and actualize it. You get to shape and influence. Without good visual art, the product suffers."

Hollis A. King is a former vice president and creative director at the Verve Music Group, the largest jazz record label in the world. He was responsible for art direction for all CD packaging, logos, advertising, point-of-purchase and signage. Hollis studied Art & Advertising Design at the School of Visual Arts where he studied with legendary artist Milton Glaser.

"Photography has always been a part of my creative journey. It's one of the tools in my creative arsenal. My photographic work has been presented in exhibitions at Skidmore College, Columbia University, and Blue Mark Gallery in Atlanta. My images have also appeared in publications such as *JAZZIZ* and *The New York Times*, and I'm a regular contributor to *Jazz Japan* magazine."

Hollis has received several awards, including five Grammy nominations, as well as citations and features in numerous newspapers and magazines. Currently, Hollis runs his own creative agency, curates exhibitions and music showcases, designs for the stage, and regularly lectures on creativity at advertising agencies and schools like SVA, Fashion Institute of Technology, and Pratt Institute. He recently collaborated with director Ruben Santiago Hudson on the revival of *Lackawana Blues*.

Contact: mr.hollis.king@gmail.com



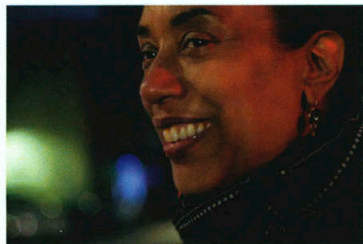
Hollis A. King, "Grieving Widow"

MARCIA E. WILSON

"When I capture a moment I not only think of the relevance of that instant, I also take into consideration the significance it may have in the future".



Marcia E. Wilson, "Manchild"



Born in London, England and raised by Jamaican parents, Marcia E. Wilson is a Brooklyn-based photographer, whose editorial work has appeared in numerous print and electronic platforms including *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *The Boston Globe*, *Bust Magazine*, *MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora*, the Misty Copeland film documentary *A Ballerina Tale*, and CBS Morning Show.

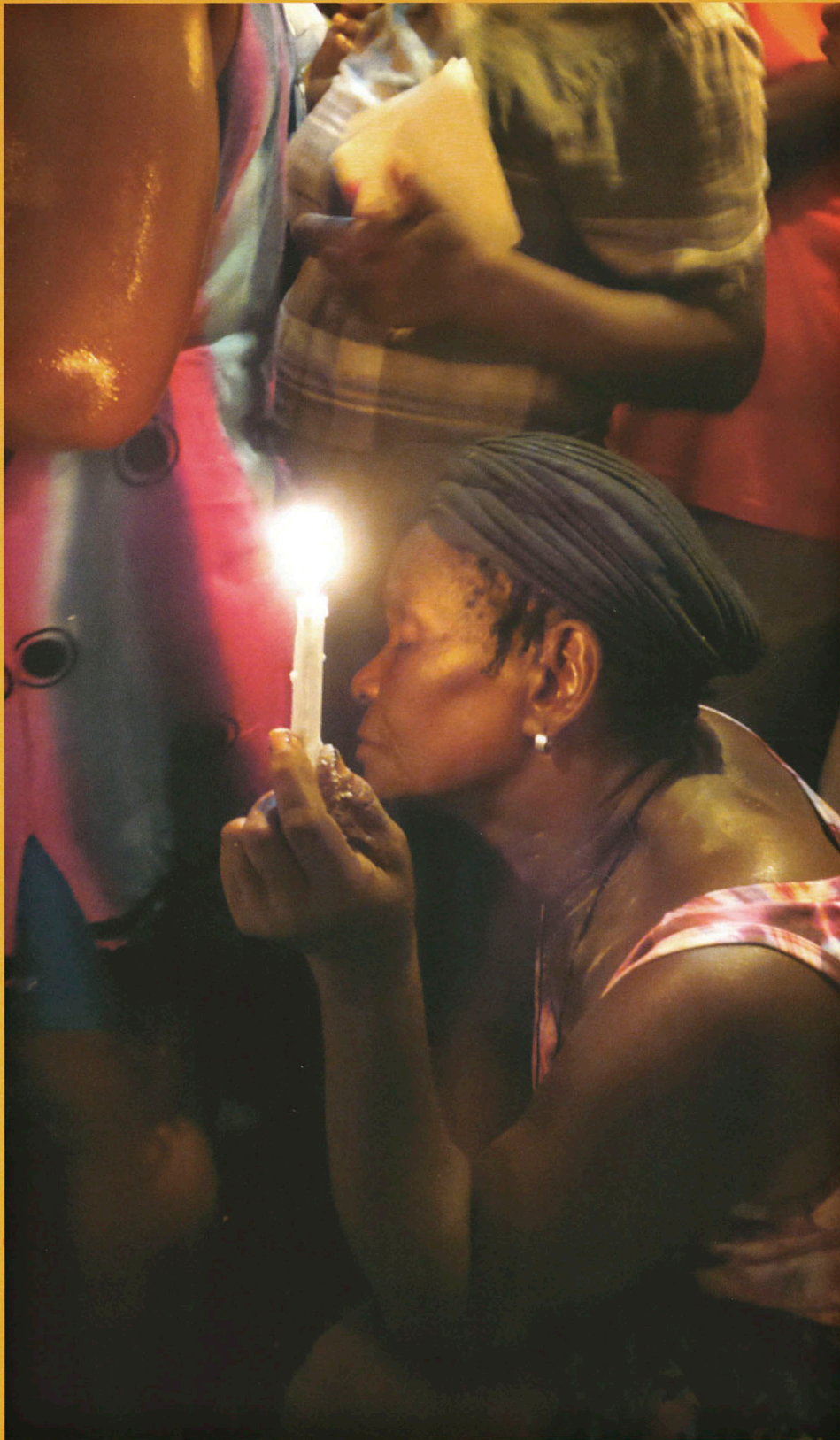
Wilson studied at the Arts Student League, Cooper Union, Fashion Institute of Technology, and holds a BA degree in Communications from Southern Connecticut University. Her journey into photography started after her brother gifted her with a camera. Since then, she's been dedicated to documenting the art, culture, and the politics of communities of the African diaspora.

Since the mid 90s, her work documenting writers for Black literary magazines, namely *QBR* and *Mosaic Literary Magazine*, eventually led to the Dripping Ink photography series, which is a collection of authors of the African diaspora. Dripping Ink is primarily exhibited in libraries and schools.

In 2016, Marcia received a Brooklyn Arts Council grant to curate *Provocateur: The Symbiotic Relationship Between Photographers and Writers*. The exhibition was presented in conjunction with the National Black Writers Conference at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY.

Telling Our Story is the second of the series.

Info: widevision.zenfolio.com



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IG #tellingourstory

