

Culture Type
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On View: 'Painting with Light: The Photography of Ming Smith' at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery in London

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on Jun 30, 2020 • 1:58 am

No Comments



"Abidjan Children" (1972 / 2003) by Ming Smith

PIPPY HOULDSWORTH GALLERY

While museums and galleries are temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus, On View will continue to showcase images from noteworthy exhibitions

A PIONEERING AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER, **Ming Smith** is known for her experimental techniques. Her painterly and artfully blurred images are achieved with slow shutter speeds, double exposure, and hand painting. A survey of Smith's work is on view at [Pippy Houldsworth Gallery](#) in London. "Painting with Light: The Photography of Ming Smith" features images dating from the 1970s to present. Two spiritual images, "Sunday Morning Service, Harlem" (1990) and "First Sunday I (Grandmother's Pocketbook)" (1980) exemplify her use of the blur. "Ming Smith is in my opinion the greatest African American photographer ever," Arthur Jafa has said. "What she's been able to do in her ability to both create blur and precision and definition at the same time is unparalleled." **CT**

"Painting with Light: The Photography of Ming Smith" is presented by Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, in an online viewing room, from May 21-July 25, 2020. The exhibition is also available on the Vortic Collect app

FIND MORE [about the exhibition](#)



MING SMITH, "Farewell to Alvin Ailey," 1989 (archival silver gelatin print, 40.6 x 50.8 cm, 16 x 20 inches. I © Ming Smith, Courtesy the artist and Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London

PIPPY HOULDSWORTH GALLERY



MING SMITH, "First Sunday I (Grandmother's Pocketbook)," 1980 (archival silver gelatin print, 35.6 x 27.9 cm, 14 x 11 inches). I © Ming Smith, Courtesy the artist and Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London

New York-based Ming Smith's work is also on view in "[Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop](#)" (Feb. 1-Oct. 18, 2020) at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond (which remains temporarily closed due to COVID-19) and "[Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power](#)" at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (which has reopened), through Aug. 30, 2020.

FIND MORE Arthur Jafa spoke about Ming Smith's photography [in this video](#) when his exhibition "[A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions,](#)" featuring work by Smith, was on view at Serpentine Galleries in London in 2017

BOOKSHELF

The "[Ming Smith](#)" is first comprehensive monograph of Smith. Documenting three decades of work, the volume is forthcoming from Aperture in September. "[Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power](#)" and "[Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop](#)" document exhibition featuring Smith's work.