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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

MoMA Exhs. 958.11

The Museum of Modern Art

To Charles Hesse, John Hightower

From Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date 16 November 1970

Re

Here is that 2-sentence paragraph which you might find useful in re the Bearden exhibition:

"Romare Bearden brings an extraordinary cosmopolitanism and technical mastery of the photomontage and collage to his treatment of the Negro. Not only is he a first rate artist, but he is the pre-eminent American abstract artist to express black consciousness esthetically."

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Silo: BOAKDEN

The Museum of Modern Art

To Jane Necol

cc: Marie Frost

From Mikki Carpenter

Date 16 May 1973

Re Bearden Block tapes

Dear Jane,

With a little help from my friends, I finally got to listen to the tapes you sent me on 11 May. One of them was sufficiently "messed up" (via the cartridge) that it was unusable, but the other, after splicing, can be used. It is filed in the Archive, complete with the catalog information you forwarded with the original tape.

Thanx ...

Mixi

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The Museum of Modern Art

To

MIKKI CARPELTER

cc: Marie Frost Bearden Exh. file

From

Jane Necol

Date

May 11, 1973

Re

Bearden Block tapes

Dear Mikki,

Here are two more Bearden Block tapes recently returned by the Studio Museum. I'm hoping there is more on these than on the one I gave you some months ago. Perhaps when you have time you might tryrto play these; Fred C xen should be able to help you. If they're blank, toss. If there is something, please keep. The catalog information was supplied with the other tape. Let me know if you don't have it.

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The Museum of Modern Art

Го

Liz Shaw

From

April

Date

1/29/71

Re

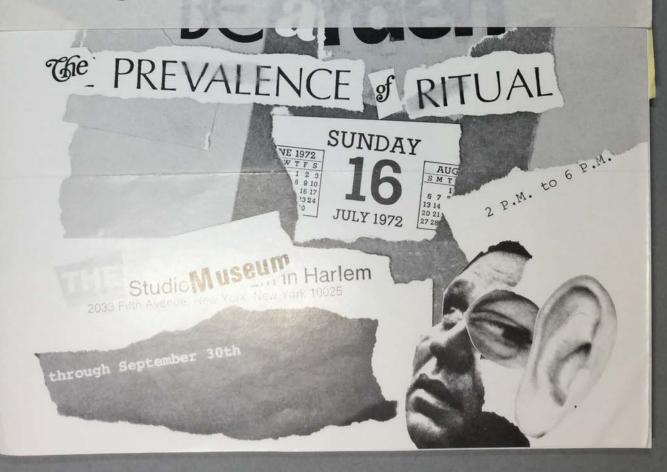
Bearden slides

Dear Liz:

Could you please send 12 different slides of Bearden's work to Mrs. Judith W. Chase, Box 1446, Sullivan's Island, South Carolina? She wishes to use them in slide lectures on Afro-American artists. Could she have them at whatever price we charge educational institutions, and could you send a release along with them?

Thank you,

April



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INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF AN

exhibition of collages & paintings by

Lill Are Bearden

The PREVALENCE of RITUAL

SUNDAY 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. JULY 1972

Studic Museum Studic Museum In Harlem
2033 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10025

through September 30th

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The Museum of Modern Art

TO FILE

Date

Re

Interned Oakley Folmes film m 5 Black Artists the day we The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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MoMA Exhs. 958.11

Velived there (SMEtime in December on January).

I Sent it Registered to mained for \$150.00.

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BEARDEN - MIJE . +

The Museum of Modern Art

To Carroll Greene

From Susan Stedman

Date November 24, 1 70

Re "Educational"materials - Bearden exhibition

Would it be suitable, useful and the like to provide audiences, especially visiting student groups, with bibliographic references? I am suggesting something other than that which will be offered in the catalogue. I am sure you have already considered this possibility and may have made such plans. I do want to express my interest, however, in providing supplementary materials of this kind.

Jes 1

What do you Ruk? Sur

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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MoMA Exhs.

958.11

The Museum of Modern Art

To Elizabeth Shaw

From Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date 9n November 1970

Re Romare Bearden Exhibition

In addition to the Silvermine film, here is another which may be of considerable interest in re Bearden:

BLACK ARTISTS IN AMERICA - Part I 16 MM
Published and produced by Oakley Holmes
Color 20 minutes Pruchase price: \$250.00

Address: 151 Union Road Suite 10 Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977

Other artis' 'Indeed in part I are: Charles Alston, Ernest Crichlow, Sam Gilliam,

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First National
312 Mark
Chicago
732-4000 Mr. Bran Ben Lenhardt Katherenikuhn Carrell freen ... 28 544-7893 Thome 544-8485 / 311 Alelaware Avenue, Flu. working ton, NG ZODZY Bernstein 6520473

Please use this ba lot for the Hans Hanske's John of MOHA visitors in the INFORMATION Exhibition

582-6885

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

MoMA Exhs. 958.11

MISC./PUBLIC

to: Bill lieberman achnowledged receipt 5/11/21 - Lunda Good NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 11 WEST 53 STREET NAME JEANNE N. LOOD ADDRESS 461 E WING ST PRINCETON, N. J. 08546 SUGGESTION: i would like to have the noise connected with the film toned down. So as to film toned down. So as to the exhibit he Atle to enjoy shouled at without heims Shouled at L'Rorace peadon?

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ROMARE BEARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL

Sounds for "A Collage in Sound"

I propose taped music - i.e. muted jazz, church music, with a Con Spirito of street sounds and noises - the sound of moving vehicles, footsteps, laughter, children's noises, talking and the general cacophony characteristic of a main street in Harlem.

The sound here should be localized and should not intrude into the rest of the exhibitions.

New and to: John B. Heystoner Wilder Green Cley Show again

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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The Museum of Modern Art

5 November 1970

To

Wilder Green

From

Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date

Re

Bearden Exhibition

I have been informed that the two really pro museums in North Garolina are the following:

State Museum of Art Raleigh, North Carolina The director is Charles Stanford

and The Ackland Museum of Art University of Worth Carolina

As this is a technical matter, it would appear that communication between you and these gentlemen might be in order.

(see a section of the section of the section of

Mr. Arne Ekstrom Telephone: YU 8-8857

Mr. Samuel Shore Telephone: 582-6885 (Mr. Japes Avery in Sulkes or

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1 ile

The Museum of Modern Art

To Pinhaw

Richard Oldenburg, Wilder Green, John Hightower

From

Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date

16 November 1970

Re

Bearden Catalog

I have now spoken with both Arne Ekstrom of Cordier-Ekstrom and with Sam Shore of the Shorewood Press. Cordier-Ekstrom is Romare Bearden's gallery.

Both Mr. Ekstrom and Mr. Shore have agreed to pay to MOMA (as you preferred) \$500.00 each as the cost of one color separation each.

As this is a technical matter, it would appear that communication between you and these gentlemen might be in order.

Mr. Arne Ekstrom Telephone: YU 8-8857

Mr. Samuel Shore Telephone: 582-6885

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jule/

The Museum of Modern Art

To

John Hightower, Charles Hesse

From

Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date

16 November 1970

Re

Some Thoughts on Funds

It occurs to me that MOMA might be in a better position to obtain funds from foundations and others, if it presents them with a long-range program to prospective benefactors rather than requesting mere financing for one or two shows.

This program would be designed to enable MOMA to make the minority artists more visible and to encourage greater participation on the part of these minorities in the total program of MOMA.

The Bearden-Hunt exhibitions, because of timing, might well be Part I of this larger program.

Some possible sources of funds:

- The Irwin Sweeney Miller Foundation Columbus, Indiana (Emphasis is on minority arts)
- 2) The Humble Oil Company (Mr. James Avery in Pelham office) I know Jim and feel he could give good entree.
- 3) 3M Corporation (Dr. Louis Cason) This is a guess, quite frankly.

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Spelman College 350 Spelman Jano 30314 Pres Dr. Albert 404. E Manley 688-2148 Pro. Budd Este Prom April Kingsley

Date all masurements. Bashgine \$0.30/ft - fin WAI (thin) \$ 2.10/ft to a embailed lenglet ones 75" gres 20\$280 for

#1919.68 0000

Amn Kluel K18-3320 27th

Perus Rathboness 267-9300 35 Frint Depty Strice Frint Depty Strice (and Ashby 18 18 Correliast. 1651

247-6800 Lawrenger Richmon

RN 3-3550 Elleson 730 Rin & WA 6-6804 C07-600 Northugu

9M Clarke 581-3400

Barrie Staris 831-5355 baslade Bearden's

Jesse P. Shawke 90 1:11 1: Elass of referent Laborator 863 65 84 Brooks 11220 1E6-9500

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First Draft

28 October 197)0

Memorandum: apul

From: Carroll Greene, Jr.

In re: ROMARE BEARDEN RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

Dates: March 23 - June 7, 1971 at MOMA

TITLE OF EXHIBITION: "ROMARE REARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL"

SIZE OF EXHIBITION: A rough guess at the moment, reason to - 50 works

Sizes will vary a great deal. For example, Bearden's 1964 series of about 8 works (black and white photomontages) should be blown up to about 8 feet each. Also, there are 3 other panels of about 5 1/2 feet each.

The majority of his works (collages) since 1967, his most colorful period, range in size between 30 x 40, and, 44 x 56.

Among his latest works are a series of 16 collages of Black Women, and, an 18' long color photomontage of a city block of Lenox Avenue, Harlem. This city block will contain the street, sidewalk, stoops, and 'look-ins' of some of the apartments offering 'aslice of life', as it were.

AUDIO: In connection with the 3 1/2 'x 18' photomontage, I propose the inclusion of taped music, probably muted jazz, with a strong overlayer of street sounds and noises, i.e., the sound of automobiles, footsteps, laughter, talking, etc. and the general cacophony characteristic of the area. Ideally, these sounds should be recorded in the area of 133rd Street and Lenox Avenue

AMPIO: A taped statement b Bearden about his life and art. He is both articulate and obilosophical. This tape could be activated by a push button highly conspicuous to the viewers and controlled by them.

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	MoMA Exhs.	958.11

First Draft

28 October 197)0

Musiorandum: april

From: Carroll Greene, Jr.

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Dates: March 23 - June 7, 1971 at MOMA

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John Hightower, Dick Oldenburg, Bill Lieberman, Emily Stone

seen as they have foots a of Bestden. If you know of may existing file footsge I'd like to get hold of it.

mounder would speak to some of them, or would someone else?

Carroll Greene and Jennifer Licht

(8) I think we should do special mailings on these shows and invice people in a Elizabeth Shaw smity to come, make appropriate for groups, etc. De you think

November 4, 1970 to a poster, which I think is essential for free distribution to schools, etc., we may want to brief an overrom of the invitation to the opening and with different type send to seem individuals on some of our various

(7) As I mantioned we say in South with Silvermies and will let you know as

Dear Carroll:

April tells me that the advance fact sheet we sent you last week is almost ready to be returned to us. As Bill Lieberman would like to announce a series of future exhibitions next week, we will follow that with a separate release on the Bearden show, around the middle of November.

There are a few procedures I'd like to mention, in case no one else does, and I don't want to spoil our friendship. (1) Whoever orders photographs for your use and for publications, should automatically order three each for my department. This should be done whether or not you are sure the piece will be in the show. (We in turn do not release anything at an early stage without checking with you for correct credit lines, etc.). The purpose is obvious: if just one order is placed by one department instead of two or three by different departments for each photograph, much time and effort is saved. These prints (3) should be charged to my department, account number 720-680.

- (2) We could also use photographs of Bearden at work or doing something, as I think the Black press might use something like that as an advance. We will pay for these prints.
- (3) We will also want color transparencies and will order dups of whatever is made for the catalog and will be tracking down any other existing color . Will also need color slides for TV spots.
- (4) Your plan for the Seventh Avenue piece with tape sounds very interesting. Do you think that a dup of the tape could be made for our use? I think if we had one, it might be used for TV and radio spots, and a separate tape would be easier for them than to pick up in the gallery.
- (5) We would like a preliminary checklist as soon as you have it (even if dates, dimensions, etc. arestill in doubt and even if some loans are unsure.)
- (6) We would like a copy of the manuscript for the catalog before it goes to the printer. (This is simply an aid to us as we have a chance to read it a couple of times and become familiar with the material. We need six sees of uncorrected galleys; six of corrected, depending on pub. date.

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Mill Lieberman, Corroll Greens, Charles Hesse, John Hightower

The Museum of Modern Art

Page 2

From

Ro

- (7) As I mentioned we are in touch with Silvermine and will let you know as soon as they have footage of Bearden. If you know of any existing film footage I'd like to get hold of it.
- (8) I think we should do special mailings on these shows and invite people from the black community to come, make arrangements for groups, etc. Do you think Bearden would speak to some of them, or would someone else?
- (9) In addition to a poster, which I think is essential for free distribution to schools, etc., we may want to order an overrun of the invitation to the opening and with different type send to some individuals on some of our various lists.
- (10) We'd like corrected galleys of any wall label material so we can offset it for our press lists.
- (11) I will be in charge of press for the show for this department, assisted by Diane Goldin and Earl Hatleberg.

E&/boApril Kingsley

Elizabeth Shaw

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Till To the Council Cusana Chamles Deere Tohn Hightowar

cc. Jennifer Licht File

The Museum of Modern Art

To Carroll Greene

From Pril Kingsley

Date11/13/70

Re Bearden

Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation is sending us a print of their film BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS IN AMERICA for viewing. I asked them to do so if it contains footage on, or is about Bearden. Since they are sending it, I presume that is the case. I will arrange for a viewing of it when it arrives.

2. Posters. I think we should distribute posters for each show widely in the Black neighborhoods, free of charge. They should go to schools, banks, insurance offices, settlement houses, child care centers, drug stores, restaurants, shops, churches, be pasted on boardings.

shops, churches, be pasted on boardings.

A large four color poster for the Bearden show would cost for a run of the show travels we might do a much larger edition with different type. Carroll Greans has already found the painting he thinks would be ideal for this purpose).

A large black and white poster for the Hunt would cost an edition of ... (Same principle could apply if show travels).

3. Give away for school children. I think it would be good if we could make available in quantity small reproductions of Hunt and Bearden's work to give school children to take home with them. For Bearden we might use an overrun from the Shorewood press portfolio (perhaps on different paper) which could credit the sponsor or could be a separate reproduction we make. Obviously again, one for each man.

now

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CC: Bill Lieberman, Carrolf Greene, Charles Hesse, John Hightower

The Museum of Modern Art

Wilder Green N to A State Office

From

Date.

Elizabeth Shaw
November 9, 1970 Promotion for Bearden and Hunt Shows (attuck The state of the s

I think that promotion and publicity efforts for both these shows should be heavily directed towards the Black community and that could be a factor in . the kind of corporate support we can get. Although we have dealt with the Black media we have only done so with any real effort when the program we were offering seemed to be of particular interest - i.e. some of the jazz programs, free Mondays, the calypso concert, certain films, etc. In the instances of these two one man shows, I think we can make an extra effort which should bebeneficial all Marie Marie

1. Radio, Although we get free public service radio spot announcements on most New York stations, I suggest we buy some spots on WLIB (AM has larger audiences than FM) which has a Black audience. Spots cost \$16. per 50 seconds (based on 12 spot package or \$192, per week) \$20, per 60 seconds (based on 12 spot package or \$240, per week).

2. Posters. I think we should distribute posters for each show widely in the Black neighborhoods, free of charge. They should go to schools, banks, insurance offices, settlement houses, child care centers, drug stores, restaurants, shops, churches, be pasted on boardings.

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A possibility here is an overrun of the invitation to the openings, if they are illustrated with works of art. We can drop the invitation copy and insert Museum hours and credit sponsor.

This would cost about ______ (A few thousand extra invitations for \$500. - can't tell until invitations is designed - lump sum including cards \$1500. for 45,000 invitations - were printed for Work in Progress.)

4. Free passes to be distributed in Black neighborhoods. Again this could be a way to credit the sponsor. We could run off on our own offset press a special free pass, giving titles of the shows, dates, and crediting sponsor. These could be distributed in quantity to organizations in Black neighborhoods.

The cost for these would be per thousand.

5. I think we should buy space in the Amsterdam News, in Tuesday and in any other publications suggested by Carroll Greene. An ad in the Amsterdam News costs: \$.61 per line; 14 lines per 1 column inch
8.82 for 14 lines, 1 column ad (I inch deep)
1500.00 full page
750.00 1/2 page, etc.

6. We should budget for a special mailing to the Black press nationally.

This would cost about (a couple of days research, typing, mailing -).

- 7. We should run some ads in The New York Times. \$500. per insertion for ad of visible size. Sponsor, of course, is credited.
- 8. If the films of Hunt and Bearden are good, we might have special evening openings, from 6 to 8, which would include the film showings and the exhibition. There are various kinds of groups, from the Barristers Wives of Harlem who have been trying to do something here for two years to Harlem Prep and winners of the 32nd precinct art contest who might enjoy this kind of evening. Again, the sponsor would be credited for the evening as well as additional exposure for his sponsorship of the show. Light refreshments could be Problem 41.4

Such an evening would cost about \$2.50 per person + \$30.97 for guards and projectionist for 1 hour.

9. In eddition to our usual vitrine poster, I think we should do much more in house promotion for future shows. In this instance, I think elevator signs should go up in advance, announcing that the show is coming, crediting sponsor. When galleries are closed for installations, instead (to our simple "closed for installations", we should have a poster that tells what is coming and acts as a lure to get visitors to come back. Obviously the design of all this material should be related to the poster and ad designs.

Cost for such in-house material would be about

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10. T think we should haden some design time for thi 10. I think we should budget some design time for this kind of promotion. That is, we will be asking Kathlean Haven's section to do more work than they usually have to do for a show because we will be producing more of a variety of graphic material.

an extra number of public service announcements using spousor name. In this instance, as there is or will be some film footage, we should budget a sum for * preparing this for TV public service announcements.

This would cost approximately ____ (cost of additional prints to be cut up, lab work, etc.)

12. Catalogues, crediting the sponsor could be distributed to schools and libraries all over the country.

13. Small displays advertising the shows could be made and mounted in public spaces in Harlem, Brooklyn, Bronx, etc. A single small panel display would cost about _______ Possible spaces are bank windows, department stores.

14. A bus ed is about \$300, for 320 insertions (space free, \$1. charge for insertion, about \$500. to produce poster); therefore, a total of \$1600. for LINE WA both shows.

As a final note, I think our Alcoa experience indicates that it is terribly important that I not only prepare this kind of memo, as you have suggested, but that this department participate in the conversations very early on. All our contact now, for example, is with the public relation department of Alcoa, but many things were discussed that relate to this department long before we were brought in. Alcoa now thinks that the promotion budget we submitted was too small. But they should have had a clearer idea of what we can do so that their expectations did not exceed our capabilities - both in terms of time and money. With a sponsor who wants recognition for his money (as I think most do) my time alone is enormously absorbed by his demands. I probably should keep a day book record on Alcoa because that kind of financial aid does take a great toll in time spent in this department. It adds an entirely new dimension to the cast of characters - curators, artists, press, public.

Also, it is obviously essential that the entire graphic aspect - of vital importance to the sponsor - be coordinated from the outset so that we have more impact.

Elizabeth Shaw

no/hoc ES/boc

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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The Museum of Modern Art

rec our her binnan

To Charles Hesse

From Elizabeth Shaw

Date November 13, 1970

Re Promotion budget for Hunt and Bearden Shows

Thousands of apologies for the delay in getting this budget of thousands in your hands. As I understand it, we are submitting a promotion budget somewhat separate from the show budget. That is, the promotion budget contains options; it is like an accordian and can be expanded or contracted depending on the sponsor's desires. The actual costs of mounting the show are much less flexible.

These are the figures that accompany my memo outline of November 9 on promotion plans. As you see, it far exceeds the \$2,000 figure you were working with. I don't think all this is necessary, but I think it important that we offer these opportunities for recognition to any sponsor. And as I said in the earlier memo, I think we are most likely to get support for these two shows from a sponsor who wants to get credit in the Black community. Seagrams, for example, must have put up a lot of money to make the film called FIVE which is about five black artists, a half hour color film being made in Paris, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Radio spots: to buy time on WLIB, the major black radio station, we could spend \$200 a week for 12 30-second spots, or \$240 a week for 12 60-second spots. I would suggest the 60-second spots and run them for at least three weeks, a total of \$720.

Posters: Large color for Bearden, free distribution, needs a subsidy of \$5,000.

Large black and white for Hunt needs a subsidy of \$6000.

Bus ads and easel back small posters (320 in busses, additional 500 to distribute) \$1,000 for each Bearden and Hunt.

Giveaway for visiting school children (overrun of invitation with different text) \$1,500 for Bearden, \$1,500 for Hunt.

Newspaper advertising: Amsterdam News - half page for Hunt \$750; half page for Bearden \$750.

(Chicago papers?)

New York Times - \$500 for visible add, suggest five, one every other week.

(cont'd.)

S. Consideration of the

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Memo to Mr. Hesse

Special visits (6:00 pm) for groups of visitors and political community leaders from community centers, clubs, schools, etc. This would cost about \$500 for two small events.

In-House promotion: signs and posters announcing that the shows are about to open and then announcing that they are open, \$125.

TV spots: As there will be exiting recent film footage on both artists, I suggest we budget \$500 for each show to make some TV public service spots.

Special displays for schools, bank windows, about the show. \$1,000 for each.

We know from Alcoa and other similar experiences that the major concern these companies have is getting recognition. Therefore, I really think it is very important that this be a major part of the initial presentation, that it be made very clear that we are willing and able to give companies recognition on several different levels. The opening itself can be important; the article in the newsletter reaches a highly selective audience and a different one and perhaps also important to the sponsor.

My plea, I guess, is for better coordination on these efforts which I think are so very important for the future of the Museum

You mentioned that you had already approached one potential sponsor and given him a figure of \$2,000 for promotion. I'd like to know who it is (and who else you are approaching as I might have some ideas about them) and can you go back with a p.s.?

cc: Wilder Green
John Hightower
William Lieberman
Carroll Greene

all all

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The Museum of Modern Art

To Elizabeth Shaw

From Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date 9n November 1970

Re Romare Bearden Exhibition

In addition to the Silvermine film, here is another which may be of considerable interest in re Bearden:

BLACK ARTISTS IN AMERICA - Part I 16 MM
Published and produced by Oakley Holmes
Color 20 minutes Pruchase price: \$250.00

Address: 151 Union Road Suite 10 Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977

other artis' '--luded in part I are: Charles Alston. Ernest Crichlow, Sam Gilliam,

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cc. Jennifer Licht Carroll Greene Elizabeth Shaw File

November 23, 1970

Mr. Oalley Holmes 151 Union Road, Suite 10 Spring Valley, New York

Dear Mr. Molmos:

Mr. Carroll Creene, who is presently with this Museum as Guest Director of our forthcoming Romare Bearden exhibition, asked me to write you concerning your film - BLACK ARTISTS IN AMERICA, Part 1 - which I understand contains a section on Romare Bearden. We are very interested in the film, and would like to view it here in order to consider its possible usefuliness in conjunction with this exhibition.

Would it be possible for you to send a print of your film to me at our receiving entrance, 20 West 54th Street?

With gratitude, in advance, for your co-operation, I am

Yours sincerely,

April Kingsley Curatorial Assistant Painting & Sculpture

cor. Cornell Orenia, Tichard Oldenberr

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The Museum of Modern Art

To Judy Goldman, Wilder Green, Carroll Greene, Charles Hesse, Jenny Licht, Bill Lieberman, Dick Palmer, Elizabeth Shaw, Susan Stedman, Jeannie Weiffenbach

From

April Kingsley

Date

12/10/70

Re

BEARDEN Exhibition, and its promotion

You are invited to a screening of a short movie about Romare Bearden, made by Oakley Holmes, in the 4th floor viewing room on Tuesday, December 15, 1970 at 2:00 p.m.

is going to be adhered to.

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cc: Carroll Greene, Richard Oldenburg

Jane Fluegel

Elizabeth Shaw

December 21, 1970

Bearden Book

This is a please ask you to send us whatever copy you have whenever you get it on the Bearden book. I understand that the bibliography has been delivered and this would, of course, be very useful to us. The chronology would also be useful even without being edited if it is accurate. It would be a great help to read the text in manuscript form and I could take it with me over the Christmas week-end if you have going to have it by the 24th.

If the book is offset and we can only have one set of galleys, would you let me know in advance so that we can arrange to have the galleys offset here.

Could you let me know if the schedule as outlined in the memo of Dec. 17 is going to be adhered to.

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agail Kenjstry

No.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ADVANCE FACT SHEET

ROMARE BEARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL

"The 'ritual' of daily life, vibrant in movement and in the myriad shades of feeling and emotion common to humanity, is nurtured by his knowledge of and experience in Black America."

"His goal has been consistently to create a universal art in a contemporary medium while remaining true to his particular cultural heritage and experience."

"'Art celebrates a victory,' says Bearden. 'I look for all those elements in which life expresses that victory.' In America's technological society, increasing numbers of people feel that man is becoming dehumanized. Bearden holds that the life style of the Black in America is 'perhaps the richest because it is the one life style that is talking about life and about the continuation of life ...and through all of the anguish -- the joy of life.'"

Dates:

4

March 25 - June 7, 1971

(taped?)

Director:

Carroll Greene, Guest Director (all gurtes are hum)

(need brief bio) on till or something

Contents: Approximately 56 works, from 1940 to the present; the majority are
the pivotal collages and photomortoges of the last decade including recent work never
before exhibited, manufacting a 18 foot my much the Benk and a pu-

The exhibition offers a significant idea of the artist's development from the flat iconography and pathos of such almost primitive pieces as The Visitation (1941) and Folk Musicians (1941-42) to recent work of the 60's where he skillfully added elements from Byzantine, Dutch, African and modern European scources, as well as from American cinematic techniques. In these he often used colored paper and fabrics, or paper which he painted and then glued to the surface of the work, Recently his collages have become increasingly more sophisticated in color and design, less compressed, airier and more elegant, as in Patchwork Quilt (The Museum of Modern Art) and Mississippi Monday (Collection Shorewood Publications).

"But there is also folklore in rural Southern style, with allusions to both American and Aftican origins that include spirituals and jazz, card-playing nights and church-going Sundays, family meals and blue Mondays, set against lush Southern landscapes and bleak Northern slums."

(more)

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The Alisitu 1900 1995 to Francisco Detrot Sprinswed by comy to coope by arbandague Research associate of Southisma Joseph 1968-1969 former Cenator of the Africa Donewcon-Centlud Hesting at The Enrilhaman Institution. & Consultant to month frech + the Bys Commits 1 The Brad in direloping a minorty artists program. Involve of the Fredrick Soughas Institute mus of African Bit. Currently witting a historical Summer American for Frederich Prager

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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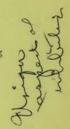
Betinning in 1964, Romare Bearden picked up the theme which had o ccupied him intermittently from for almost 30 years, that of black life in America. The original Southern series, of which six works are in this exhibition, were almost primitive in style. The works of 1964 to the present are executed in the collage technique, of which which he has made uniquely his own.

The Prevalence of Ritual captures some of the rhythems of black life ino America, described by the show's director, Carooll Greene, jr. In his catalogue introduction: The folklore in the rual Southern Style with allusions . . . slume."

Haveing worked exclusively in the collage medium for six years, Bearden has become in his work increasingly more sophisticated in color and design. He has empanded his materiaks to include the use of fabrics and colored paper, creating such masterful works as Patchwork Quilst (recently acquired by The Museum of Modern Art) and Mississippi Monday (Coll S.P.) both of 1970

The exhibition will include several photo enlargements o€ the almost monochromatic collages of 1964, as well as a newly created, 18 foot long mural entitled The Block, which has been described by Bearden as a collage with soun, abstracting visually and aurally from street scenes in Harlem.

Tolonger



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enlarged to proportions approximateing life-size.

We have carried out this idea with *i* huge

photo-enlargements of six pivotal 1964 collages.

Having worked exclusively in the collage technine/
for the past 6 years Bearden's works have become
increasingly more sophisticated calor, design and
of 1970
technique. Masterful works included in the
exhibition such as Patchwork Quilt (recently
acquired by The Museum of Modern Art) and
Mississippi Monday (Collection Shorewood Publishers)
demonstrate Bearden's unique ability to utilize
this medium to express his particular cultural
heritage in a universal art.

Culminating the exhibition will be a newly created 18' long mural entitled "The Block", which has been described by Bearden as a "collage with sound". It' is a visual and aural abstraction of a street scene in Harlem; the collage medium of the mural is augmented by an an sound collage of voices, music, street noises and laughter.

These works, and those subsequent to them, are laced with allusions to both American and Afican origins that include spirituals and jazz, card-playing nights and church-going Sundays, family meals and blue Mondays, set against lush Southern landscapes and bleak Northern slums."

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Beginning with his first, almost monochromatic, collages of 1963-64, entitled, The Prevalence of Ritual, Romare Bearden again occupied himself with figuration, picking up themes common in his earliest works on paper of 1939-1942, after a long digression into pure abstraction.

Romare Bearden

With his

Romare Bearden

The Prevalenc of Ritual collages of 1964 mark a major breakthrough in the art of Romare Bearden. In them he found the medium best suited to the expression of themes which had occupied him since his earliest works on paper of 1940-1942. These themes are described by the exhibition's director, Carroll Greene, in his ca catalogue introduction as "The 'ritual' of daily life, vibrant in movement and in the myriad shades of feeling and emotion common to humanity, is nurtured by this knowledge of and experience in Black America."

Six of the early works on brown paper are included in the exhibition. They show the almost primitive poweré of Bearden's imagery which doesn reappears in his mollages on 1964 to today. The intervening years were a long digression into pure abstraction and are not represented in this exhibition. It was the artist's intention when he created the almost monochromatio small collages of 1964 that they be photographically

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NO. FOR INMEDIATE RELEASE ATTANOM PACE MINERE

B. MARL BEARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF REPUAL

"'Art celebrates a victory,' says Bearden. 'I look for all those elements in which life expresses that victory.' In America's technological society, increasing numbers of people feel that man is becoming denomanized. Bearden holds that the life style of the Black in America is 'perhaps the richest because i t is the one life style that is talking about life and about the continuation of life...and through all of the anguish—the joy of life.'"

Dates: March 25 - June 7, 1971

Director: Carroll Greene, Guest Director (all quotes are his)
Former Capater of the Afro-American Cultural History
Department at the Smithsonian Institution: currently
acting as consultant to the Director John Hightower.
and to the Committee to Study Afro-American. Hispanic,
and Other Ethnic Art. In addition he is writing an
historical survey of Dlack American Artists for Praeger
Publications.

Contents: 96 works including 6 photo-enlargements of key 1964 collages and an 181 long collage mural with sound created especially for the exhibition.

The Prevalence of Ritual collages of 1964 mark a major breakthrough in the art of Romare Rearden. In them he found the medium best suited to the expression of themes which had occupied him since his earliest works on brown paper of 1940-42. These themes are described by the exhibition's director, Carroll Greene, in his catalogue introduction: "The ritual is the choreography of daily life in black America, vibrant in movement and in the myriad shades of feeling and emotion common to homanity, it is murtured by his knowledge of and experience in black America."

Six of the early works on brown paper are included in the exhibition.

They demonstrate the primal power of Bearden's imagery which reappears in his collages of 19th to today with heightened intensity. The intervening years, a long di ression into pure abstraction, are not represented. It was the artist's intention when he created the almost monochromatic small collages of 1964 that they be photographically

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	MoMA Exhs.	958.11

collar on a proportions approximation life-size. We have carried out this idea with large phyto-enlar coments of six pivotal 1000 colla ea. These works, and those subsequent to them, are laced "with allusions to both American and African origins that include spirituals and jazz, card-playing nights and church-going Sundays, family meals and blue Mondays, set against lush Southern landscapes and bleak Northern slums."

Having worked exclusively in the colline medium for the past six years. Bearden's works have become increasingly more sophisticated in color, design and technique. Such masterful works of 19 0 as Patchwork Outlit (recently acquired by The Museum of Modern Art) and Mississippi Monday (Shorewood Publishers) demonstrate Bearden's unique ability to utilize this medium to express his particular cultural heritage in a universal art.

Highlishing the exhibition will be a newly created 18' long mural entitled "The Block", which has been described by Bearden as a "Collage with sound." It is a visual and aural abstraction of a street in Harlem; the collage medium of the mural is augmented by a sound collage of voices, music, street noises and laughter.

Tour: The exhibition will be shown also at the National Collection of Fine Arts.

If shington, D.C. in the summer of 1971 and at the University of California Art

Nuseum in Berkeley, California, during the fall of 1971.

Publication: Romare Bear	den: The Prevalence of Ritual, essay by Carroll Green,
	(4 in color), bibliography, chronology, checklist of
	distributed by

Additional material, including black and white photographs and color transparencies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York 10019. Telephone (212) 956-7501

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 21 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 10, 1971

ADVANCE FACT SHEET

ROMARE BEARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL

" 'Art celebrates a victory,' says Bearden. 'I look for all those elements in which life expresses that victory.' In America's technological society, increasing numbers of people feel that man is becoming dehumanized. Beardon holds that the life style of the Black in America is 'perhaps the richest because it is the one life style that is talking about life and about the continuation of life...and through all of the anguish—the joy of life.'"

"The ritual is the choreography of daily life in black America, vibrant in movement and in the myriad shades of feeling and emotion common to humanity, it is nurtured by his knowledge of and experience in black America."

Dates: March 25 - June 7, 1971

Director: Carroll Greene, Guest Director (all quotes are his).

Former Curator of the Afro-American Cultural History Department at the Smithsonian Institution. He is now writing an historical survey of Black American Artists for Praeger Publications.

Contents: 56 works, including 6 photo-enlargements of key 1964 collages and an 18' long collage mural, The Block, with sound created especially for the exhibition.

Six of the early works on brown paper of 1940-42 are included in the exhibition. They demonstrate the primal power of Bearden's imagery which reappears in his collages of 1964 to today with heightened intensity. The intervening years, a long digression into pure abstraction, are not represented. It was the artist's intention when he created the almost monochromatic small collages of 1964 that they be photographically enlarged to proportions approximating life-size. This idea has been carried out in the exhibition with huge photoenlargements of six pivotal 1964 collages. These works, which marked a breakthrough in his art, and those subsequent to them, are laced "with allusions to both American and African origins that include spirituals and jazz, cardplaying nights and church-going Sundays, family meals and blue Mondays, set against lush Southern landscapes and bleak Northern slums."

Having worked exclusively in the collage medium for the past six years,

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Bearden's works have become increasingly more sophisticated in color, design and technique. Such masterful works of 1970 as Patchwork Quilt (recently acquired by The Museum of Modern Art) and Mississippi Monday (Shorewood Publishers) demonstrate Bearden's unique ability to utilize this medium to express his particular cultural heritage in a universal art.

Tour:

The exhibition will be shown also at the National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1971 and at the University of California Art Museum in Berkeley, California, during the fall of 1971.

Publication: "Romare Bearden: The Prevalence of Ritual," essay by Carroll Greene, 24 pages, 16 illustrations (4 in color), bibliography, chronology, checklist of exhibition, \$2.50, published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Additional material, including black and white photographs and color transparencies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Telephone: (212) 956-7501.

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The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

RELEASE 21A ADVANCE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 1971

CHRONOLOGY OF ROMARE BEARDEN

- 1914: September 2 Romare Howard Bearden born in Charlotte, North Carolina, to Richard Howard and Bessye Johnson Bearden. Father works for New York Department of Health as sanitation inspector; mother is New York editor of the Chicago Defender and founder and first president of the Negro Women's Democratic Association.
- 1935: Receives BS degree from N.Y.U. Works as a cartoonist.
- 1936-7: Studies life-drawing and painting with George Grosz at the Art Students
 League, New York. Joins the "306" group, an informal association of black
 artists living in Harlem, meeting at the studios of Henry Bannarn and Charles
 Alston at 306 W 141 St. Most of these artists are also members of the Harlem
 Artists Guild, a formal organization of Negro Artists active from the mid-30's
 until the outbreak of World War II. Early figurative paintings included in
 several exhibitions at the Harlem YWCA and the Harlem Art Workshop.
- 1938: Enters New York City Department of Social Services as case worker.
- 1940: Begins painting in tempera, primarily southern scenes. First one-man exhibition at studio of Ad Bates in Harlem. Early student works are shown.
- 1942: Begins service in U.S. Army, 372nd Infantry Division.
- 1944: One-man show in Washington, D.C.
- 1945: One-man exhibition at G. Place Gallery, Washington, D.C. First one-man exhibition in New York gallery; Samuel M. Kootz. He is Arisen acquired by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; first work to be acquired by a museum.
- 1946: Included in "Annual Exhibition of American Sculpture, Watercolors and Drawings" at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- 1947: Exhibits with other winners of La Tausca Art Competition, New York. Several works included in exhibition at Galerie Maeght, Paris, sponsored by the USIS. Included in 58th Annual Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- 1950: Goes to Paris on the G.I. Bill to study at the Sorbonne, but does not paint.

 Later travels to Italy.
- 1951: Returns to New York. Paints intermittently but concentrates on song writing; joins ASCAP and has many songs published.
- 1952: Resumes work for New York Department of Social Services; case load only involves gypsies; continues to work until 1966.
- 1954: September 4 marries Nanett Rohan. Resumes painting.
- 1956: Moves into present studio on Canal Street in New York.



-2-

- 1958: Paintings now almost exclusively non-objective.
- One-man exhibition at Cordier & Warren Gallery, New York; continues to show abstract paintings. May-June: travels in Europe. Included in "The 1961 Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Paintings and Sculpture" at the Carnegie Institute.
- 1963: Spiral Group is formed, meeting initially in Bearden's studio, later opens a gallery. Founded before the civil rights march on Washington.
- Appointed to position (still held) as Art Director of Harlem Cultural Council.

 One-man exhibition at Cordier & Ekstrom, New York, includes collages from

 Projections series and their photo-enlargements. Works exclusively in collage from this point on.
- 1966: Receives grant in Art from The National Institute of Arts and Letters.

 Directs and participates in exhibition "The Art of the American Negro" at the Harlem Cultural Council, New York.
- 1967: Co-directs with Carroll Greene "The Evolution of Afro-American Artists: 1800-1950" sponsored by the City University of New York, The Harlem Cultural Council, and the New York Urban League, in the Great Hall of City College, New York.
- 1968: Included in Poster show in Poland and Bulgaria, in group shows at Dartmouth College, Minneapolis Institute, The Studio Museum in Harlem. One-man shows in Atlanta, Ga., and State University of New York at Albany.
- 1969: One-man exhibition at Williams College Museum and at the State University of Iowa. Co-authors with Carl Holty The Painter's Mind (New York; Crown Publishing).
- 1970: Teaches at Williams College. Participates in "Five Famous Black Artists" at Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston. Receives grant from Guggenheim Foundation to write book on the history of Afro-American art. Included in exhibition "She" at Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc.

of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W 53 St. New York, NY 10019. Telephone (212) 956-7501.

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ROMARE BEARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL

The Museum of Modern Art

To Wilder Green, Dick Palmer, Liz Shaw, Jenny Licht, Kynaston McShine, Betsy Jones,
Alicia Legg, Carolyn Lanchner, Jane Necol, Judy Goldman, Jane Fluegel,
Jeannie Weiffenbach, Gyl Abrams, Charles Hesse, Marie Frost, Earl Hatleberg,
Joan Wallace, Pat Leepconnes.

Date April Kingsley 3/24/71

Screening of Shorewood Publishers film on Romare Bearden

You are invited to view this film on Thursday March 25, 1971 at 1:30 p.m. in the fouth floor screening room.

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ROMARE BEARDEN: THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL

The Prevalence of Ritual shows the development of a theme that has obsessed Romare Bearden for over thirty years—the aesthetic expression in visual and plastic language of the life style of a people. The ritual is the choreography of daily life, vibrant in movement and in the myriad shades of feeling and emotion common to humanity. It is nurtured by Bearden's knowedge of and experience in black America.

Bearden began to develop this theme in the early forties when he painted a series of Southern scenes on brown paper. These works, such as The Visitation (1941) and Folk Musicians (1941-42), are stylized Syn-American statements of Negre life expressed in simple, colorful forms. The six works from this period shown here contrast in style but not in feeling with the works in collage, which form the bulk of this exhibition. This hedium began to engage him late in 1963. The collages of 1964, called Projections, marked a major breakthrough in his art. Small, almost monochromatic, they were intended to be photographically enlarged in black and white to nearly life-size proportions. These works pivotal collages created a "right up front" sensation of immediacy, well demonstrated by the six Projections in this exhibition.

Bearden, now in his fifties, has been working exclusively in collage since 1963. His range of expression and technical facility in the medium have evolved to the point of full mastery. The rich sophistication of color and design and the powerful plasticity of his late works is beautifully exemplified here by Patchwork Quilt (1970), The climar by of the exhibition is The Block, the eighteen-foot-long, six-panel collage mural, representing a scene at Lenox Avenue and 135h Street in Harlem, which was constructed especially for this exhibition, and provides a fitting climar to it.

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Bearden's collages are immediate and compelling, steeped in folklore and history, and yet as contemporary as Lenox Avenue today. "Art celebrates a victory," says Bearden; "I look for all those elements in which life expresses that victory."

Carroll Greene, Guest Director

A catalogue is available in the Museum's bookstores. After closing in New York on June 7, the exhibition will be seen at the National Collection of Fine Arts in Washington, D.C., before traveling to four other American museums.

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Date 8 . 00 15, 1970 ADVANCE FACT SHEET ON FUTURE EXHIBITIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION Title: Brance Bearden: the Prevalence of Retual Special assistants or companies to be credited: none Dates: March 23 - June 7,6970 If show is traveling, what is itinerary (names of museums and dates): Auspices: Catalog written by: (arryll Sreene No. of illustrations: [a, 12] Black and white: 8-10 Color: 2-4 Manuscript available by: (Date) Jale December Galley available: (Date) Late January Publication date: Late February Carly Horch Exhibition checklist available: (Date) Late January Approximate number of works in show: 40 - 50 Brief description of contents (artists, media, range, etc.): Retrospective exhibition ranging from mid-

(more)

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African and an 3/2 X18 long phitomortage of a block of Jenex anequal, Harlew with a pre-recorded sheet houses by the area, will be of special interest. Also planned is an audio derice method the public may hear Bearden Any toens of special interest to the Press? talking about his life and art.

Purpose of exhibition: (quote from Director if possible):_______

16371-35,33, To AK
[6373-26,24, From Rholmer]
[16370-6+1= Re 3/29
[16372-18,5]
[28-8,35]
[28-8,35]
[30-8,24]
[40 film to other
[40 fil

The Museum of Modern Art

To Wilder Green, Dick Palmer, Liz Shaw, Jenny Licht, Kynaston McShine, Betsy Jones,
Alicia Legg, Carolyr Lanchner, Jane Necol, Judy Goldman, Jane Fluegel,
Jeannie Weiffenbach, Gyl Abrams, Charles Hesse, Marie Frost, Earl Hatleberg,
Joan Wallace, Pat Leepconnes.

Date April Kingsley 3/24/71

Re Screening of Shorewood Publishers film on Romare Bearden

You are invited to view this film on Thursday March 25, 1971 at 1:30 p.m. in the fouth floor screening room.

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The Museum of Modern Art

To Wilder Green, Dick Palmer, Liz Shaw, Jenny Licht, Kynaston McShine, Betsy Jones,
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16371-35,33, (6373-26,24,25,29, 16372-6+13,12,28, 16372-18,5\$10,819,32,33 28-8,35,4,7,33 30-18,24,13,3 no number 25,10,23,18,30,22,25 no number 7,25,23,82,11 Blain. 85.2-3A,26A 39262 D Both

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The Museum of Modern Art

To Sue Raices

From Karen Chervin

Date April 1, 1971

Re ROMARE BEARDEN transparencies

I am releasing to you herewith the following transparencies:

THE PREVALENCE OF RITUAL: BAPTISM (1964)
BLUE INTERIOR, MORNING (1968)
RITUAL BAYOU (1970)
PATCHWORK QUILT (1970)

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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ESSENCE TRENDS

If you haven't yet made the midi scene, start your spring off right in a longer length, two-piece denim, or let the "gypsy" in you show in a splashy hot print with plenty of ruffles. A with-it combination shows lots of leg through a buttonup skirt (more than half undone) with short shorts underneath. You can add your own special touch to that peek-aboo leg with a little ankle interest. Chunky ankle bracelets are just the thing to make your midi come alive and help you create YOUR own bit of spring fever. Then when you've got him, gift him.... JAPANESE ANTIQUES AND ARRANGEMENTS are alive and well at Yao's, 30 East 60th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022. If you're looking for a delightful and different gift, ask Yao to design it for you; or, if you prefer, design it yourself. Prices are very modest. FLICK IN. . . . Inter-ethnic understanding is achieved at Diablo Valley College in California through the film media. Gerard T. Hurley, director of the program, has organized a special film presentation that not only explains the black experience but the Mexican as well. The films are shown both in the classroom and outside, and the presentation attempts to help uptight people find themselves. Couldn't hurt....LONG TIME NO SEE....Romare Bearden's, The Prevalence of Ritual, on exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd Street, New York, through June 7, will include works from the past 30 years of the artist's career with emphasis on the collages and photomontages of the last 10 years. It will concentrate on the works that best illustrate Bearden's extraordinary ability to express black consciousness aesthetically. Also of special interest will be the 18-foot relief mural of a block in Harlem, with a taped collage of street sounds. After June 7, the exhibition will tour the country. Don't miss it!...JUGS a women's charitable organization founded in Memphis in 1953, announces the election of Mrs. Bonnie R. Kirk, president of the Detroit chapter, as the new national president. JUGS, whose initials stand for Justice, Unity, Gener-

osity, and Service, has raised nearly \$100,000 for various charities in its 18-year existence. The organization's main purpose is to seek out human needs in the community and help meet those needs with financial assistance. Congratulations to Mrs. Kirk Check out WILLI

SMITH! He's come a long way from Philadelphia. This fast-rising, 22-year-old women's-wear designer is destined for great heights in the fashion world. His New York-based design firm, Digits, manufactures small groups of interchangeable clothes that work brilliantly together. A few pieces will let you assemble a sizeable assortment of stunning ensembles. Take a look at some of his newer designs at better department stores across the country....HURRAHS to Ken Beckles, 23-year-old photographer, named first-place winner in the Professional "Faces" Division of Life's photography contest. Walking away with \$5,000 in prize money and much acclaim, Beckles will exhibit at Doyle Dane Bernbach Inc., 20 West 43rd Street, New York, N.Y., later this spring or early summer....Not too long ago, an article appeared in Variety, the show-biz journal, dealing with the lack of black programming on

many southern ETV (Educational Television) stations. A survey made by the staffers of Black Journal, headed by Executive Producer Tony Brown, uncovered a list of stations that blacked out the show in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, Florida, Tennessee, and Alabama-and, would you believe, the two Puerto Rican ETV stations. The research was prompted by the recent FCC ruling that the eight public stations in Alabama had a right to refuse Black Journal, Soul, and other black programming on grounds of "taste." Tony Brown, who is also president of the National Association of Black Media Producers, says that NABMP and other interested groups will file court actions in the Alabama case in an attempt to upset the FCC ruling. Right on, Black Journal and NABMP in your continuing

efforts to change the lily-white com-

plexion of the broadcasting industry!... RIGHT ON, LUTHER! by Brumsic Brandon, Jr., is a book of three-level cartoons to: (1) inform black children; (2) educate white adults; and (3) entertain you. Anything that opens up so many avenues of laughter is a bargain at \$1.95. Spend APRIL IN TEXAS at Port Arthur's Black Festival. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the festivities include: exhibits of arts and crafts; food booths; talent contests; band contests; queen contests; and a spectacular evening of entertainment. Port Arthur's CC hopes this will pave the way for total black involvement in all Port Arthur activities. Sounds good. . . . THE MUSEUM OF THE NATIONAL CENTER OF AFRO-AMER-ICAN ARTISTS, 122 Elm Hill Avenue, Dorchester, Mass., is presenting Home Folk: Africa, an exhibition of drawings, paintings, and prints of African life by black artists in America, through April 16. TCB, an exhibition of new dimensions in black nationalist art, will be on display April 27-May 6. Museum hours: Tuesday-Friday, 12-9 p.m.; Saturday, 12-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Admission is free. The Gallery is also open for group meetings and parties. . . . LET US NOT FOR-GET . . . No matter how much we might disagree with our involvement in Vietnam, there are many black servicemen who fight not only the military war there, but also the war against loneliness and boredom. A brother writes: "Our recreation is very limited; but one joy that will always top everything else is that of receiving a letter from your woman . . . be she wife or friend. There are a lot of white chicks from all over the country that send their names to the Sea Tiger, a weekly armed-services paper that carries a section of addresses to which servicemen can write. Can you ask our black sisters to do the same?" O.K. girls, you've heard the word. Now how about getting those cards and letters going? Address the return to Sister Jane Doe, so the brothers will know who's writing. Thanks to Alonzo Vargar, H&S Co., Dental, 1st Med., 13 N., FPO, S.F. for letting us know.

AND HIGHLIGHTS



NEW YORK BEAT

When his electric organ died out on him during his first show at the prestigious Philharmonic Hall, Isaac Hayes was told by the perturbed management that he could wail as long as he wanted on the second show. And wail he did, until about two in the morning, and he had little chance for sleep before catching a plane to Detroit to appear on a charity concert for ghetto youngsters with Muhammad Ali . . . David Ruffin stopped in to catch The Temptations' closing night at the Copacabana, then Tempts Dennis Edwards, Eddie Kendricks, Melvin Franklin (David English) responded similarly when they all tipped over to the Playboy Club to give their regards to Robert (Kool) Bell of Kool and The Gang who was celebrating his marriage to Deborah Jones, a former Philadelphia, Pa., model . . . Johnny Brown intends to make it one more season with TV's Laugh-In. People might forget that despite his size, he's a light-footed dancer, an actor and basically a singer. He penned a Christmas song that Dionne Warwick might record for her new company . . . Jay Fletcher, who just finished a role as a junkie in Scrapping Bottom with George Segal, candidly admits that if he hadn't become a dancer and actor, he, too, like many of his contemporaries, would have become a junkie . . . Actress Beverly Todd seems lost for words when young friends ask her why Columbia Pictures is not promoting her latest film, Brother John, with Sidney Poitier. Some Blacks feel Columbia is backing off from the flick because, for one, white critics' panned it and because it portrays Blacks too positively . . . Zebra Associates completed and previewed a film, Step By Step: The Story Of Harlem Prep, to coincide with a vigorous fund-raising effort to insure the future of the preparatory school. Edward F. Carpenter, headmaster of Harlem Prep, and New York State Human Rights Commissioner Robert J. Mangum, chairman of the board of trustees of the school, prevailed on Standard Oil Co. (New Jersey) to put up the funds for the movie . . . A gala preview of the collage paintings of Romare Bearden and the sculpture of Richard Hunt attracted a celebrity-studded throng of 2,000 to the Museum of Modern Art, including artists Benny Andrews, Ernest Crichlow, Jacob Lawrence and William T. Williams. Other guests attending the preview included High B. Hightower, director of the Museum of Modern Art, and Mrs. Hightower; Mr. and Mrs. C. Howard Hunt, sculptor Hunt's parents; Edward K. Taylor, director, Harlem Cultural Council; and Betty Blayton Taylor, executive director of Harlem's Childrens' Art Carnival. The show will be on exhibit through June 7. -CORDELL S. THOMPSON

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Galleries & Museums/John Gruen

53rd): The unrelenting dramas as well as the joys of the Black Experience are stunningly explored in this major exhibition of Romare Bearden, an artist whose mastery of collage has long been in evidence, and whose work has long produced a vibrant and expressive vocabulary of image and form.

The effect of these works is einematic. The rush of images spilling and careening across the "screens" of Bearden's composition-boards are as coloristically and compositionally kinetic as they are emotionally cogent and fluid. Always, the cacophonous rhythms of life inform their content. Bearden looks at black America's lifestyle, extolling its virtues as much as its faults, combining the complexities of its feelings with the ever present memories of its rich and varied folklore. Invariably, this exuberant documentation is filtered through eyes that perceive the joyful and the affirmative. Anguish becomes a by-product, and only because its presence is an inherent quantity in the Black Experience. Bearden does not single out anguish. He allows it to be felt and intuited.

The largest work on view is The Block, a six-section collage that illustrates the life of a block in Harlem. Again, the cinematic approach prevails as myriad images teem and collide to express the fragmentary and fugitive moments of city life. (The work's already sonorous content is here abetted by a tape-collage of street sounds composed by Daniel Demkrosky.)

Finally, Bearden emerges as a master of the kaleidoscopic moment. Image, time and space are compressed to form a miraculously controlled whole. The dynamics of Bearden's perceptions have consistently allowed him to see his world in terms of its reeling simultaneities. His achievement is to have made these simultaneities studies in emotional and pictorial clarity.

Richard Hunt (Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd): This curious, not very fulfilling retrospective by a 35year-old Chicago sculptor, consists of welded metal constructions suggesting figure, plant and animal shapes. Strongly influenced by the "drawing in space forms of Gonzalez and David Smith, these sculptures make clear Hunt's technical virtuosity, but do not yield the emotional substance that would

Romare Bearden: The Prevalence of transform them into viable esthetic Ritual (Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. statements. It is not so much a question of looking for beauty as for discovering an inner force or energy that might give this work its potential depth and grandeur.

> Tony Smith (Knoedler, 21 E. 70th): The somber geometry of Tony Smith radiates a strong sense of the magic and the ritualistic. He builds cubic solids of austere simplicity that through restraint and obsessive precision yield a presence fraught with a confounding sense of mystery. The silence of these black, black works acts as an added force, providing an invisible energy to an already charged sculptural statement. The recent pieces continue in their exploration of massive abstract forms. These dense architectural volumes produce their own logic and emit a powerful atavistic force. Smith's vision has always seemed fired by a sense of the remote and transcendental. His language, intense, uncompromising, and profoundly elegant, places one in contact with the imponderables of geometry at its purest.

> Vincent Van Gogh: Paintings and Drawings (Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway): If you feel like wading through the crowds at the Brooklyn Museum (those darned Sunflowers will pack them in every time), you can see some absolutely first-rate drawings by Van Gogh, a part of his prolific output not often exhibited and mercifully left unromanticized. Their structural strength and immediacy, their pictorial tension and obsessive clarity continually rise above the clichés of the Van Gogh style. In these drawings the fabric of the painter's overly praised art comes into sharp and fresh focus. In figures, portraits, land-scapes and interiors, the steely energy of an acute observer makes itself felt. and provides the viewer with valuable new insights into a mind that consistently sought to fathom a reality that sprang almost too vividly before his eyes. As for the paintings, there are 68 of them, and nearly all of them world famous. As if this were not enough, the second floor boasts "Van Gogh's Sources of Inspiration," consisting of 100 prints from his personal collection. There are also two sales desks selling Van Gogh reproductions like mad. Clearly, the Van Gogh industry continues to flourish unabated.









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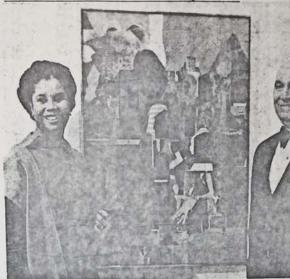
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PROUD MOMENT — The Museum of Modern Art was the scene of a gala preview of collagepaintings of Romare Bearden and the sculpture of Richard Hunt. Mrs. Bearden, who is wearing a dress designed by Robert Rogers reflecting the colors her husband uses in his compositions, gives smiling approval of the celebrity-studded reception honoring "Romare Bearden: The Prevalance of Ritual" and "The Sculpture of Richard Hunt," as hubby stands modestly by. The exhibition of 56 works by Bearden and 50 pieces of sculpture and drawings by Hunt will be at the museum until June 7, 1971.

Gala Preview Held For Bearden, Hunt

A gala preview of the collagepaintings of Romare Bearden and the sculpture of Richard Hunt drew a celebrity-starred throng of 2,000 to The Museum of Modern Art Tuesday evening, March 23.

Prior to the invitational preview which began at 8:30 p.m., New York's Romare Bearden and Chicago sculptor Richard Hunt were the guests of honor at a dinner party for 250 people in the Museum's Penthouse and Founder's Room.

Among those attending the dinner and preview were: Vinnette J. Carroll, director, Urban Arts Corp; Mrs. Gardner Cowles, wife of Museum Trustee: Henri Ghent, director of the Community Gallery, The Brooklyn Museum; Carroll Green, guest director for the Bearden exhibition; Miss Nancy Hanks, chairman, National Endowment for the Arts.

Also John B. Hightower, director of The Museum of Modern Art and Mrs. Hightower; Mr. and Mrs. C. Howard Hunt, Richard Hunt's parents; William S. Lieberman, director of the Hunt exhibition; Edward K. Taylor, director, Harlem Cultural Council; and Betty Blayton Taylor, executive director of Harlem's Childrens' Art Carnival.

Among the many artists present were: Benny Andrews, Ernest Crichlow, Jacob Lawrence, Jack Tworkov and William T. Williams.

Filmed For TV

While guests studied Bearden's collage-paintings depicting life in the rural south and Harlem and viewed the sweeping metal sculptures by Hunt, an NBC news crew filmed the festivities. James Hinton, Harlem resident, filmed the opening for the British Broadcasting Co.

Mrs. Romare Bearden wore a dress designed by Robert Rogers in colors used in her husband collages. There were flowing evening pajamas, short shorts in suede and satin and beautifully embroidered da-

shikas.
"Romare Bearden: The Prevalence of Ritual" and "The Sculpture of Richard Hunt" will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art through June 7.

Transit Employees Honor ACP

Former Congressman Adam Clayton Powell will receive the leadership award presented annually by the Society of Afro-American Transit Employees.

The ceremony will take place at the Society's Third Annual Awards Dance on Friday, April 16, from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., at Manhattan Center, 34th St. and

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Romare Bearden. Continuities. (1950's). Collage. 50 x 40". University Art Museum, Berkeley: Gift of the Childe Hassam Fund of The American Academy of Arts & Letters.

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