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	MoMA Exhs.	958.15

Bearden file - installation

## THE PROJECTIONS

"Projections" is the name Romare Bearden gave to a series of photographically enlarged collages for a one-man show in October 1964. Collage was a new medium for Bearden then, and he wanted these small, subtly colored works to assume great vigor and impact through the cinematic effect of photo-enlargement.

The series ranges from Harlem of the twenties and the Pittsburgh of Bearden's youth to rural Southern life. The original collages for THE CONJUR WOMAN and THE DOVE are included in the exhibition. The other three collages - "Conjur Woman as Angel", "Tidings", and "Baptism", - were also "projected" in 1964. This group of six photo panels was made especially for the present exhibition.

C. G.

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## THE BLOCK

A friend of mine had a house off Lenox Avenue. Whenever I visited him, I was intrigued by the series of houses I could see from his windows. Their colors, their forms, and the lives they contained within their walls fascinated me. When I sketched this block, I was looking at a particular street, but as I translated it into visual form it became something else. I lost the literalness and moved into where my imagination took me. I x-rayed the facades with my imagination.

Romare Bearden

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Romare Bearden

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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 knowledge 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 statements of Afro-American 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. The collage medium began to engage Bearden late in 1963. The 1964 collages, 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 pivotal works 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 are beautifully exemplified here by *Patchwork Quilt* (1970) and by *The Block* (1971), the eighteen-foot-long, six-panel collage mural, representing a scene at Lenox Avenue and 135th Street in Harlem, accompanied by a taped collage of actual street sounds. The mural was constructed especially for this exhibition, providing it with a fitting climax.

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.

Text Panel



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Text  
Panel



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	Phone	OK to Reframe	Special
Bearden		✓	
Bernstein Old Couple		✓	
<del>Breaker</del> Burden	662-9123	✓	Plus already on it No special perm.
Beukendige		✓	
1st Natl Bank Kuhn			new frame wants back in
Clarke		✓	
C+E		✓	
Deetrich		✓	
Howard University		✓	
Elleson		✓	
Chase Manhattan BK.		✓	
W. Green		✓	
Harding		✓	
Hickson	TR9-7186		not travelling
Hudson Valley		✓	
Jarvis		✓	
Kheel		✓	
Newberger		✓	
Renscher		✓	
Schenck		✓	
Stone		✓	
Suzel		✓	
Frank	404-688-2148	✓	
Spillman	-5037056	✓	



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**Memorandum**

To: Jim Coleman

From: April Kingsley

Date: 2:25 A.M.

Re: \$130  
Heers Tap-dede  
Sony cartridges  
8 min - \$9  
12 " - \$10.50  
15 " - \$11.95  
\$110  
50 Watt power  
Nikko  
amplifier loop  
+ 25 speakers  
Fairfax F3  
\$50 each 16" x 9" x 1"

**BEARDEN - INSTALLATION**

Approved  
 Laminating  
 Service  
Mr. Silver  
 1382 Flatbush  
 Ave  
 Bklyn 11210

40 x 30 is average  
 size 4 ft 55  
 Approx 40-50  
 will probably  
 fit  
 fit 84 step + 31 prints  
 into area for  
 Bonnard

**7:11**  
 Bada  
 Esry Flering  
 533-8160  
 718 Bway

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cc. Carroll Greene  
Jennifer Licht  
File ✓

## The Museum of Modern Art

To Wilder Green

From April Kingsley

Date 11/18/70

Re BEARDEN Exhibition "Look to the Future"

Dear Wilder:

Attached are photostats of the 6 Projections by Bearden which have been chosen for photo-enlargement. Mr. Greene is considering adding a 7th, but we will continue on the basis of 6 for the present. Whatever you work out in terms of the installation for these blow-ups may be a determining factor here as well. As you know Mr. Greene originally conceived these works enlarged to 8' high, but is leaving the decision as to size in relation to the space available and the architectural aesthetic entirely up to you. I have asked Graphics for estimates on the cost of enlarging them to 5 x 7' and 7 x 9', mounting them on cloth backing for easy removability and shipping to participating museums.

The Museum of Modern Art

To Miss April Kingsley

From Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date December 3, 1970

Re Bearden



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## The Museum of Modern Art

To Miss April Kingsley

From Carroll Greene, Jr.

Date December 3, 1970

Re Attached

REQUIRE ADDITIONAL NEW TYPESET OF NOTES

"I believe in death"

Several taped notes - i.e. what have, church music, etc. etc.  
of street-scenes and notes - the sound of moving water in  
the background, children's voices, talking and the general atmosphere  
of a busy street in Harlem.

The notes here should be excellent and should not intrude into  
the exhibition.

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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 ~~Con Spirito~~ 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 exhibition.



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## The Museum of Modern Art

To William S. Lieberman, Charles Hesse, Elizabeth Shaw, Emily Stone,  
Richard Palmer, Richard Oldenburg, Jenny Licht, April Kingsley,  
Matt Donepp, Charles Froom, Richard Franklin, Registrar

From Wilder Green

Date December 10, 1970

Re ROMARE BEARDEN Exhibition

There will be a meeting to discuss the Romare Bearden Exhibition  
on Tuesday, December 15th at 4:00 PM in the Committee Room.  
Carroll Greene will be present.

cc: Sarah Hoge

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## The Museum of Modern Art

April

[illegible]

Date: 2/17/71

**Not valid without authorized signatures**



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MF 142

cc. Bill Farnie  
Carroll Greene  
File

## The Museum of Modern Art

To Jeannie & Gyl

From April

Date 1/14/71

Re Bearden framing

Would you please have Bill take the Cordier & Ekstrom Bearden's to Richard Franklin tomorrow (1/15/71) so he can measure them for frames.

Thanks,

*April*


Confirmed to: Bud Esry of ArtConsultations Service

Special Instructions, Suggested Vendor, Catalogue References, etc.:  
Hold vendors copy until order is received!

Delivery Date:

Required: March 15th is last possible

Purchasing

Dept:

M & F shop

Date: 2/17/71

**Not valid without authorized signatures**

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MF 142

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

# Purchase Requisition No. 6643

1. Items valued over \$100.00
2. Capital Equipment
3. Orders requiring typing, or where the vendor must receive a copy.

Do not write in shaded areas

Orders requiring typing, or where the vendor must receive a copy. Do not write in shaded areas						Purchase Order No.: 00354
Vendor Art Consultations Service				<input type="checkbox"/> 1. 11 W. 53 St.		<input type="checkbox"/> 5. 4 W. 54 St.
Address 718 Broadway				Ship <input type="checkbox"/> 2. 21 W. 53 St.		X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. 20 W. 54 St.
City New York, New York 10003 533-8160				to: <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 27 W. 53 St.		<input type="checkbox"/> 7. 405 E. 76 St.
				<input type="checkbox"/> 4. 32 W. 53 St.		<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Other
Ship <input type="checkbox"/> U.P.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Frt.				F.O.B. <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered		Terms <input type="checkbox"/> N-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-10
Via <input type="checkbox"/> P.P. X Vendor's Trk.				<input type="checkbox"/> Source		<input type="checkbox"/> N-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 2-10
Deliver to Department: M & M shop		Account Number: * 3501		Requisitioner: A. Kingsley		Date: 2/17/71
				Authorized by:		Date:
Item	Quantity	Unit	Complete Part Number and Description	One item per line Skip a line whenever possible	Estimated Price	Purchased Price
	approx. 36		WA2 frames (all special sizes)		\$1,250 to approx.	
	32 net together				\$1,500	
Confirmed to: Bud Esry of ArtConsultations Service						
Special Instructions, Suggested Vendor, Catalogue References, etc.: Hold vendors copy until order is received!				Delivery Date: Required: March 15th is last possible		
				Purchasing Dept.: M & F shop Date: 2/17/71		

**Not valid without authorized signatures**



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MURRAY HILL 7-7000  
TELETYPE: NEW YORK 212-667-6985

*The* **BILTMORE** MADISON AVENUE AT 43RD STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017  
The EXECUTIVE Hotel of New York

*(see headed)*  
"Roman Bearden - The Prevalence of Ritual"

- (list of works)*
- ✓ *(now up)*
  - ✓ borrowed works
  - ✓ Black Women (16 things - Now) collage (size 10x14)
  - ✓ 18' long block of Lenox Avenue (133rd + Lenox Ave.)  
look into an apartment (collage - photo montage)  
3 1/2 ft high - sidewalk, street, steps, look-overs of 4th

*(Director for Museum of Modern Art - Shores)*

Mr. Sam Shore  
Shorewood Press

*- Photography -*

*2*

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# ROMARE BEARDEN



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M 517

MATTHEWS 5117



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M 5120

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early gouaches, 1941, 1942

M 5118

MATHOWS 5118



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early collages including  
The Conjur Woman, (1964)

M 5124

MATTHEWS 5124



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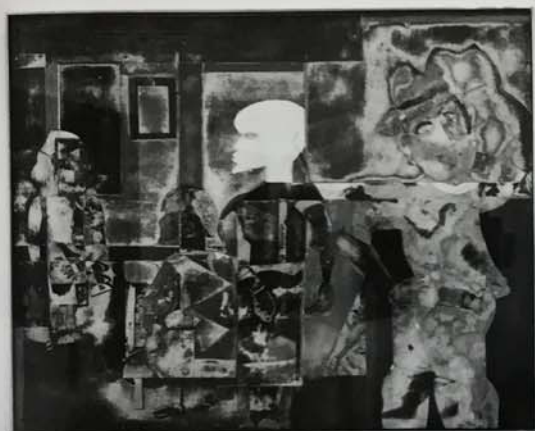
Projections

6115 W

MATTHEWS 5119

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N 512/

MATTHEWS 5121

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Collages, including  
Patchwork Quilt (1970)

M 5125

MARTENS 5125

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Collages, including She-ba (1970)

M 5126

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The Block, 1971

2215 W

MATTHEWS 5122



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INTERIOR WITH PROFILES

SAMPLE

1969. Paper and synthetic polymer paint

The First National Bank of Chicago

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SHE - BA

1970. Cloth, paper and synthetic polymer paint

Cordier & Ekstrom, New York

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PATCHWORK QUILT

1970. Cloth, paper and synthetic polymer paint

The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Purchase, 1970



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## THE BLOCK

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Romare Bearden

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NAME-ADDRESS-IDEA #3

Information, Bury  
MOMA, N.Y.

NAME:  
ADDRESSES:  
DATE:  
IDEA:



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Thanks,

cc. Wilder Green  
Dick Palmer  
Carroll Greene  
Jennifer Licht ✓  
File ✓

*Please  
return  
to me*

Chuck Froom

April Kingsley

11/23/70

BEARDEN Exhibition

Dear Chuck:

We are planning, for part of this exhibition, to have photo-enlargements of 6 small collages in black & white to about 8" high. I have gotten estimates from Graphics on the costs to do blow-ups to 5' x 7' (\$180) and 7' x 9' (\$320) and mount these on linen. Could you find out for me how much it might cost to get these put on the wall?

We are thinking in terms of linen backing because the show is supposed to travel. How feasible it will be in actual fact, no one really knows. Do you have any thoughts on the subject? Can you think of any more practical solutions? Solid backing would be too heavy and untidy - at least that is the consensus of opinion up here.

Thanks,

*Usually displeasing  
is the problem  
I think.*

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## The Museum of Modern Art

To April Kingsley  
From Richard Palmer  
Date November 24, 1970  
Re BEARDEN

*Did*

Dear April,

I saw the copies of ;your memos to Pat and Wilder about enlargements of the BEARDEN collages. I trust this will be discussed further before any actual orders are placed since you could be talking of an expenditure of up to \$2,000. or more which we did not anticipate in the preliminary expense estimate.

cc: rp