



BlackFlorida by Johanne Rahaman

t h e p o m p a n o b e a c h e x h i b i t i o n



BlackFlorida

A project by Johanne Rahaman

Pompano Beach edition at the Bailey Contemporary Arts

Black Florida is an accessible, modern photographic archive of the Black rural towns, and inner cities throughout the State of Florida. The project, born in Miami-Dade County, reinterprets marginalized communities from the inside, through the stories of the residents, and offers an alternate concept of abundance, home, and community. Black ghettos were intentionally created to maintain segregation and cultivate more lack. Paradoxically however, within these communities, there are thriving generations of working class, low-income families that defy the norms and limitations.

Johanne Rahaman's images consist of environmental portraits, landscape, architectural and still life images, underscoring the urgency and importance of recording these neighborhoods that are in a constant state of flux. Rahaman's drive for documenting these communities that mirror her hometown, the stigmatized Laventille Hills of Trinidad, was born out of a sense of duty to offer the public an alternative view of Black ghettos, and ghetto life, unashamedly, as a sense of place, as home. Her work takes a look at the simplicities and the complexities of entrepreneurship, beauty, sensuality, aging, mortality, youth, and resilience within the African Diaspora.

In October 2016, Bailey Contemporary Arts (BaCA) Director and Curator, Sarah M. Benichou approached Rahaman to turn her focus on the Northwest Community of the City of Pompano Beach. Rahaman quickly became enamored, and in a few short months, turned out hundreds of images of the proud residents of this tight-knit city. The resulting exhibition showcases the images and continues the narrative that began with the 2016 exhibit, "What's Your Story?" of archival portraits of Pompano Beach's black community in the 1930s.

Rahaman will continue to travel the length and breadth of the State of Florida in search of such communities, to record everyday life, through architectural, landscape, environmental portraiture, and oral histories. Black Florida is endorsed by the Economic Hardship Reporting Project, a nonprofit devoted to journalism about inequality.

February 2017

www.blackflorida.org

www.baileyarts.org

















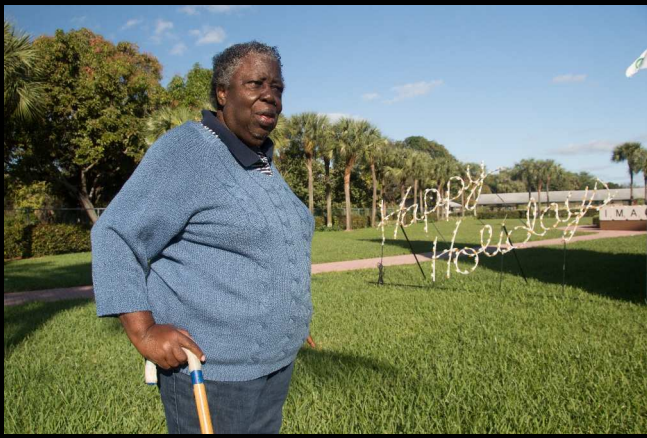










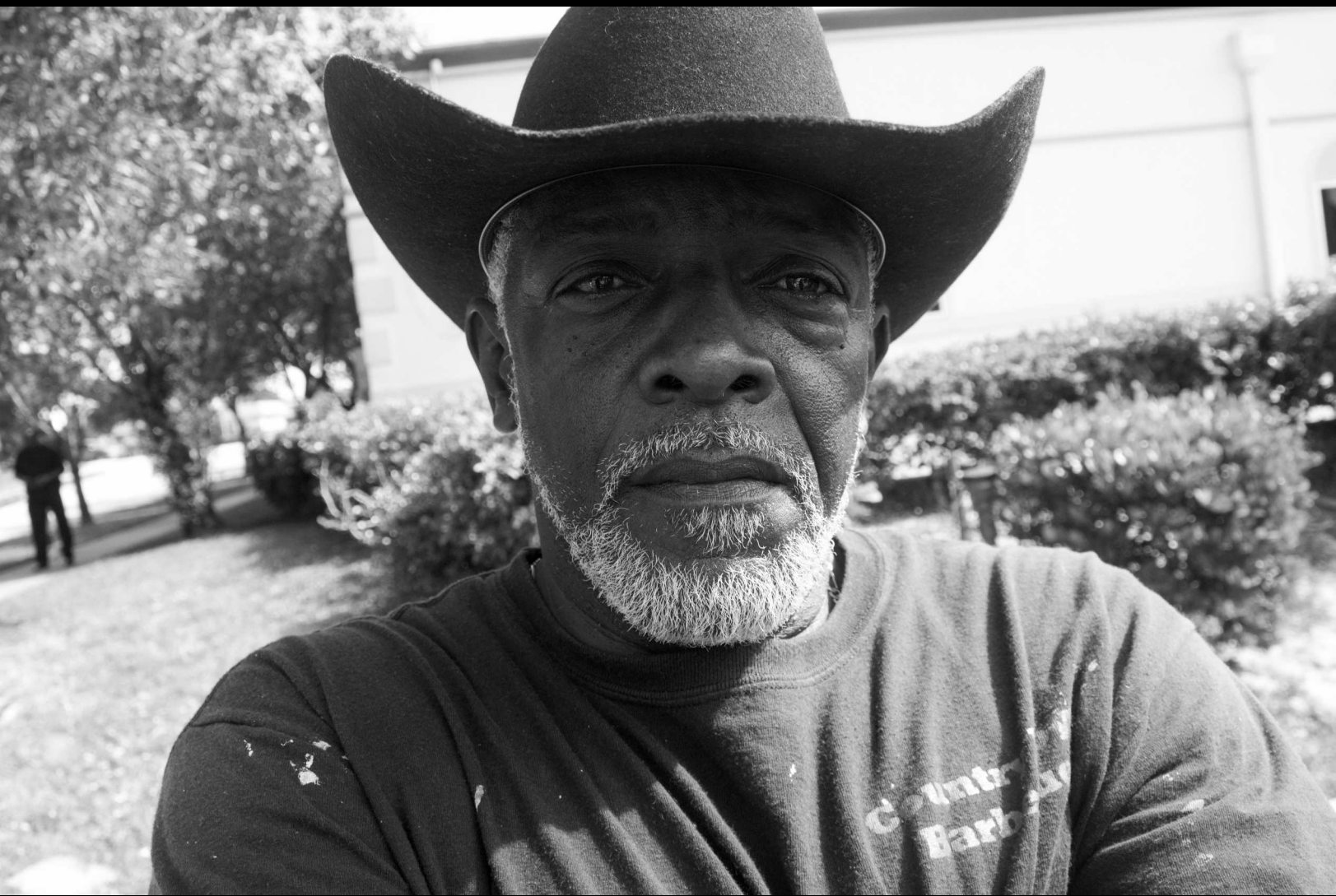












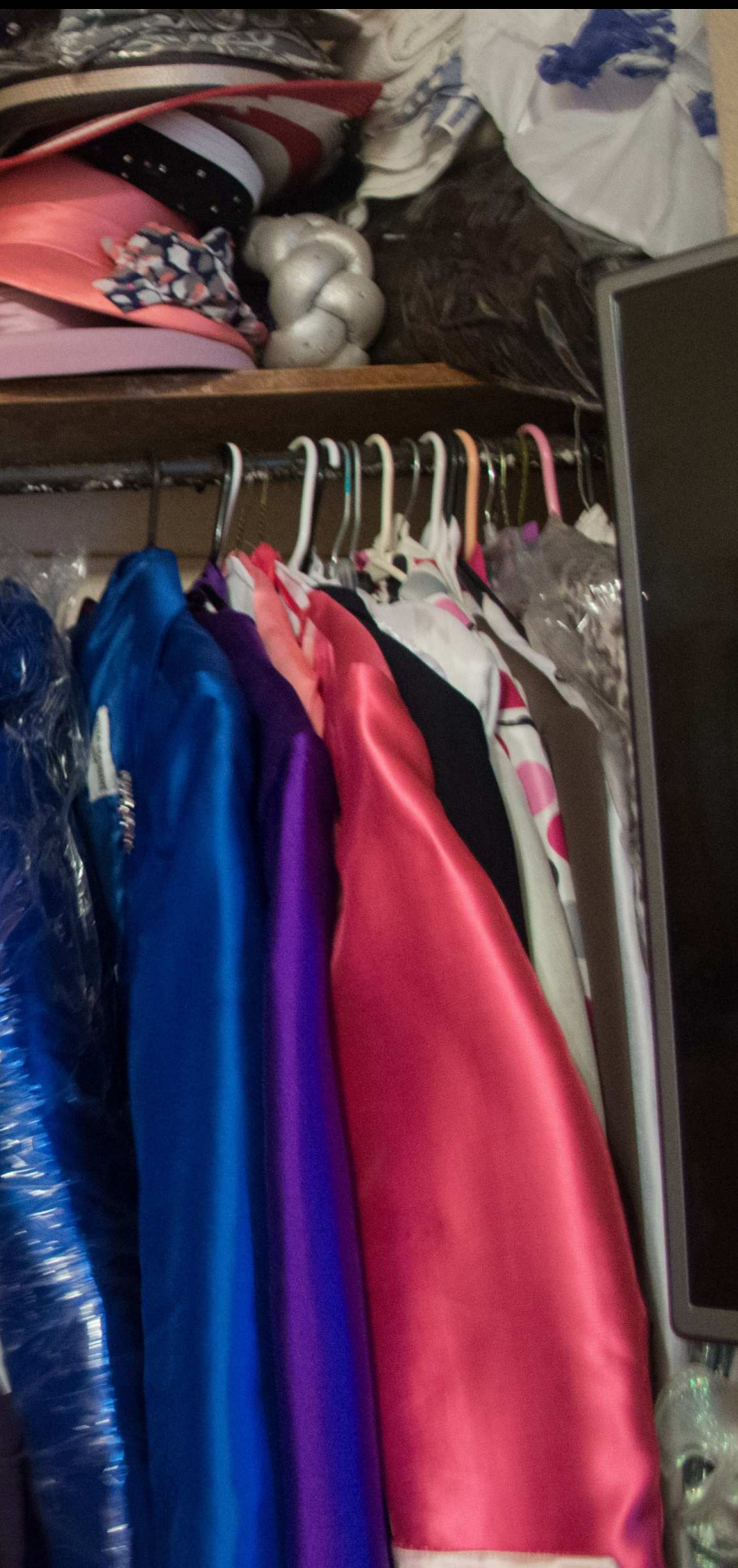






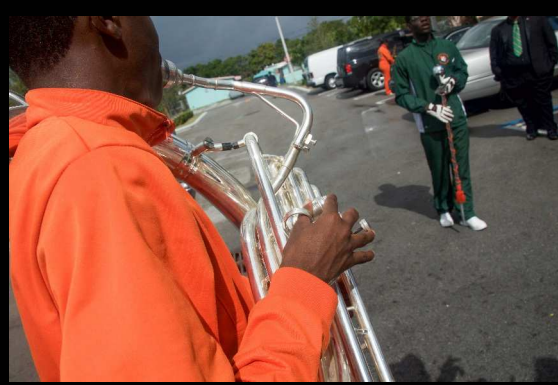














Archival images courtesy the Fort Lauderdale African-American Research Library and Cultural Center used in the 2016 Bailey Contemporary Arts exhibition "What's Your Story?", honoring the Black History of Pompano Beach. The exhibition featured more than one hundred exquisite vintage images of the black residents in their community.







THANK YOU

We would like to thank all those who kindly participated in this project and opened their community and homes, and so generously shared their lives. The spirit and personality of the Northwest community of Pompano Beach will now be preserved and celebrated for years to come.

A special thanks to:

The Chery Family

Clarence Grisham and the residents of the Grisham Hotel

The Lesane Family

Rev. Marguerite Luster

Sally Mobely and Family

The NW CRA Advisory Committee

Shardescia Passmore

Sarahca Peterson

Pastor Frankie Rawls

Whitney Rawls

You all went the extra mile to make this series possible in such a short period of time.

Exhibition made possible by:



BlackFlorida Partners:



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photography exhibit
2/15 - 3/31
reception 2/16, 6-9 pm

Bailey Contemporary Arts
41 NE 1st Street
Pompano Beach, FL 33446
(954) 284-0141
www.baileyarts.org

Hours

Tues-Fri, 10-6
Sat, 10-4

The mission of the Bailey Contemporary Arts (BaCA) is to cultivate, incubate and nurture a vibrant visual arts community that enriches Pompano Beach and its goal of being a nexus of art, creativity, diversity, and inspiration. BaCA serves as a destination for artistic innovation and education, with the goal to amalgamate emerging local and national artists with industry professionals to elevate the creative process.

Bailey Contemporary Arts is located in the historic Bailey Hotel building, which was, at one point, the center of a thriving downtown in Pompano Beach. Built in 1932, the historic Bailey Hotel is the 2nd oldest remaining building and is part of the longest contiguous collection of historic buildings in Broward County. In 2012, the Pompano Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) purchased the building for \$1 million and in 2014 completed over \$1.2 million in renovations to the building. Now the space houses a dozen art studios and features large galleries that serve as exhibition and education spaces, and an open social area for artistic dialogue. Now artists, residents and cultural organizations can come together in Pompano Beach and use the power of creative expression to uplift, revitalize, and build a stronger community.

