

CHESTER HIGGINS, the Photographer

A favorite among collectors for his classic image "The Moslem Woman," Chester Higgins has emerged as one of the premier photographers of his generation. Because he believes art humanizes us, the subjects of his photographs are most important to him. Higgins gives voice to the unseen interior spirit. His images resonate with a spiritual echo.

Much of Higgins' imagery is inspired by his quest for the evidence of ancestral identity and the desire to broaden the visual document as it relates to people of African descent. Over the past five decades, he has produced six books of compelling images reflecting a sensitive and in-depth diary of his explorations of the human Diaspora.

Higgins' images of ordinary moments enable us to see and appreciate the fullness of humanity. Through portraits and studies of living rituals and ancient civilizations, viewers gain a rare insight into cultural behavior — a window to another place and time. "With the camera I embrace the spirit that is the essence of all existence, " he says. "I search for the signature of the spirit in my subjects, and through my art, I become whole."

Higgins is the author of the photo collections *Black Woman*, *Drums of Life*, *Some Time Ago*, *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, *Elder Grace*, and his memoir *Echo of the Spirit*.

A Tuskegee Institute alumni, he mentored under P.H. Polk, Arthur Rothstein, Cornell Capa, Gordon Parks and Romare Bearden. He has been a staff photographer for *The New York Times* since 1975; his photographs have appeared in *ArtNews*, *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Look*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Black Enterprise*, *GEO*,

The Village Voice,
New York Magazine, The New Yorker and *Archaeology*. His
work is the
topic of two PBS films: "An American Photographer: Chester
Higgins
Jr.," and "Brotherman." He has been featured on CBS:
"Sunday
Morning News," PBS: "The NewsHour," ABC: "Like It Is," and
"Freedom Forum."

His one-man exhibitions have appeared at the International
Center of Photography, The Museum of Photographic Arts,
The
Smithsonian Institution, The Museum of African Art, Musee
Dapper
Paris, The Schomburg Center, The New-York Historical
Society.

Emory University's Schatten Gallery. His current exhibition,
"Stars of Ethiopia" is
on view at New York University's Kimmel Window Gallery
from March 1 – May 1,
2011.

For additional information see;
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