

# CHESTER HIGGINS JR.

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## BIOGRAPHY

“Wrestling with issues of memory, place and identity, I see my life as a narrative and my photography as its expression. My art gives visual voice to my personal and collective memories. It is inside ordinary moments where I find windows into larger meaning. Light, perspective, and points in time are the pivotal elements I use to reveal an interior presence within my subjects as I search for what I identify as the Signature of the Spirit.”

**b.** Fall 1946.

### **Education**

Alumni. Tuskegee University, 1970.

### **Mentored in photography under**

P.H. Polk (1967-69) Tuskegee University; Arthur Rothstein (1969-78) LOOK magazine/FSA; Cornell Capa (1970-80) International Center of Photography (ICP) and Gordon Parks (1971-80) LIFE magazine.

### **Mentored in art under**

Romare Bearden (1972-80).

### **Profession**

Artist, photographer, author, public speaker  
Retired staff photographer, *The New York Times*, 1975—2014.

Gallery Representation: Peter Fetterman Gallery,  
Santa Monica, Ca. [www.peterfetterman.com](http://www.peterfetterman.com)

## **Coordinates**

Web site: [www.chesterhiggins.com](http://www.chesterhiggins.com)

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## **Memberships**

Egyptological Seminar of New York (ESNY)

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)

## **Publications: Books**

Higgins, Chester with Gayle Wald, *"It's Been Beautiful: Soul! And Black Power Television."* Duke University Press 2015

Higgins, Chester with Marjorie Fisher, *"Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile."* October 2012. American University Press Cairo

Higgins, Chester Jr with Betsy Kissam, *Echo of the Spirit: A Photographer's Journey*, October 2004. Doubleday

Higgins, Chester Jr with Betsy Kissam, *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, November 2000, Bulfinch Press, Boston.

Higgins, Chester Jr., *Feeling The Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, Bantam Books, New York, 1994. A portrait of the African Diaspora.

Higgins, Chester Jr., and Coombs, Orde, *Some Time Ago*, Doubleday/Anchor Press, New York, 1980. An historical portrait of blacks in the United States between 1850—1950.

Higgins, Chester Jr., and Coombs, Orde, *Drums of Life*, Doubleday/Anchor Press, New York, 1974. A portrait of the universality of men and the uniqueness of being black in the 1970s.

Higgins, Chester Jr., and McDougall, Harold, *Black Woman*, McCalls Publishing, New York, 1970. A portrait of the universality of women and the uniqueness of being black during the 60s.

Higgins, Chester Jr., and Machobane, Burns, *Student Unrest at Tuskegee Institute: A Chronology*, Behavioral

Science Research Institute, Tuskegee University, Alabama.  
1968. An academic community in conflict and its resolution.

### **Publications: Articles**

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Chester Higgins's Homage to Ethiopia*. The New York Times Blog." May 19, 2015  
<http://nyti.ms/2h1PXZt>

Chester Higgins Jr., "*A Dance of Rivers*. The New York Times Lens Blog." December 18, 2014. <http://nyti.ms/2gYU2Nv>

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Ethiopia's New Jerusalem*." *American Legacy Magazine*. Winter 2009

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Sacred Journey*," *American Legacy Magazine*. Winter 2004

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Into Africa*," *American Legacy Magazine*, Winter 2001.

Chester Higgins Jr. "*The Extraordinary Every Day of Living Africa*," *The New York Times Week in Review*, August 27, 2000

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Pilgrimage to the Past*," *Archaeology Magazine*, January/February 2000

Chester Higgins Jr., "*P.H. Polk and Me*", *Crisis Magazine*, December 1998

Chester Higgins Jr., "*In the Spirit of Abraham*", *commonQuest Magazine*, Spring, 1998

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Journey Through an Ancient Land*", *The Explorers Journal*, Fall 1997

Chester Higgins Jr., "*The Color of Red*", *ESSENCE*, February, 1997

Chester Higgins Jr., "*A Friend of Ethiopia and All of Africa*," *The Ethiopian Mirror*, April, 1996

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Boyhood Memories of Quilting Time in Alabama*." *The New York Times*, April 4, 1996

Chester Higgins Jr., "*A Father's Rite*," *The New York Times Magazine*, December 27, 1992

### **Solo Exhibitions**

Sugar Hill Children's Museum, "*Passing Through*." 01 October 2016 — 27 August 2017. Harlem, New York

Skoto Gallery, "*Chester Higgins.*" 21 May — 20 June 2015. Chelsea, New York City

Arnika Dawkins Gallery, "*Chester Higgins: Unseen Spirit.*" 04 October 2013 — 01 February 2014. Atlanta, Georgia

Art @ Tekserve Gallery, "*My Soul Flies Home to Africa.*" May 5 — June 13, 2012. New York City

New York University's Kimmel Center Windows Gallery, NYC. "*Stars of Ethiopia.*" March 1 — May 1, 2011.

Carlos Museum/Shatten Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. "*Nubian Dreams: Images of Sudan.*" June 20 — August 15, 2008

Montgomery Museum of Art, Montgomery, Alabama. "*Family, Friends & Acquaintances,*" July 12 — September 2, 2007

The New York State Museum, Albany, New York. "*Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging.*" October 29, 2004 — April 05, 2005.

American Jazz Museum. *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging.* January — March 2004

The Philadelphia African American Museum. Wisconsin *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging.* October — November 2003

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library, NY. *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World.* August 7 — December 31, 2003

America's Black Holocaust Museum. Milwaukee, Wisconsin *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging.* July — October 2003

Musee Dapper, Paris, France. *Ghana: Yesterday and Today.* April — August, 2003

National Library of Medicine. Bethesda, Maryland. . *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World.* February 10 — March 7, 2003

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, Michigan. *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging.* October 20, 2002 — April 6, 2003

Tubman African American Museum, Macon Georgia.  
*Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*. August — September 30,  
2002

Bank of America Tower Gallery, Seattle, Washington.  
*Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging* May 1—June 14, 2002

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, Jamaica, New York  
*Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*. March 15 — April 13,  
2002

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham,  
Alabama. *Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging*. November 5 —  
December 31, 2001.

Langston Hughes Library, Queens, New York, *Elder  
Grace: The Nobility of Aging*, Mini-exhibit. August 18, 2001  
— September 30, 2001.

King Arts Complex, Columbus, Ohio. *Elder Grace: The  
Nobility of Aging*. June 7 — September 18, 2001.

Brooklyn Borough Hall, Brooklyn, New York, *Elder  
Grace: The Nobility of Aging*. Mini exhibit. May 01, 2001 —  
June 29, 2001.

Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Philadelphia, Pa.,  
2001. *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African  
Diaspora*. Through April 21, 2001

The New York Historical Society, *Elder Grace: The  
Nobility of Aging*. November 07, 2000 — March 25, 2001

NYC /MTA, Arts for Transit, *Lightbox Project 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Street/6<sup>th</sup> Ave IND subway station upper corridor*, *Elder  
Grace: The Nobility of Aging*. 01 July 2000 — May, 2001

Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX,  
*Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*. July  
21 — August 27, 2000

University of Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, Arkansas.  
*Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*.  
June — July 2000

Smith Robertson Museum, Jackson, MI, *Landscapes of  
the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*. March 21 – April  
27, 2000

The United Nations, New York City *A Society For All Ages: 1999 The Year of Aging*. September 30, 1999 — October 15, 1999

The Museum of African Art, New York City *Landscapes of the Soul: Women of the African Diaspora*. January 29 — March 27, 1999

The Beach Institute, Savannah, Georgia *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*. January 18 — February 28, 1999

Smithsonian Anacostia Museum, Washington, D.C. *Spirituality in African American Art*. A group show. January 15, 1999 — June 30, 1999.

African American Museum in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*. December 11, 1998 — February 28, 1999

Martin Luther King Jr., Arts Complex, Columbus, Ohio. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*. September 17 — November 29, 1998

National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, Tennessee. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*. May 9 — June 30, 1998

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, Alabama. *Candomblè: Ancient Spiritual Worship of African Brazilian Sainthood*, March 19 — April 29, 1998

Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa* February 14 — April 14, 1998

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, Alabama. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa* October 05 — December 28, 1997.

Smithsonian Museum, Center for African American History and Culture, Industrial Arts Building Gallery on the Mall, Washington, D.C. *Feeling The Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*. January 19 — March 23, 1997.

Smithsonian Museum, Center for African American History and Culture, Industrial Arts Building Gallery on the Mall, Washington, D.C. *Invoking the Spirit: Worship*

*Traditions in the African World.* January 19 — March 23, 1997

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. *Enduring Rhythms.*, photographic component. October 2, 1996 — March, 30, 1997.

Focus Hope Gallery, Detroit, Michigan. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa.* November 14 — December 15, 1996.

National Afro—American Museum and Cultural Center at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio. *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World.* September 16 — November 24, 1996

The Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa.* August 17 — October 27, 1996

The Jewish Museum, New York. *Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey.* July 26 — January 1997.

The Museum of Modern Art, New York. *Pictures of the Times: A Century of Photography from The New York Times.* Group show. June 27 — October 8, 1996.

Museum of African American History, African Meeting House. Boston, Massachusetts. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa.* May 26 — July 30, 1996.

Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa.* February 06 — April 07, 1996.

Peter Fetterman Gallery of Photographic Art, Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, California. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa.* January 12 — March 06, 1996.

International Center of Photography, New York City. *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa.* October 08, 1995 — January 08, 1996.

African American Museum, Dallas, TX. *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World.* September 1 — October 30, 1995.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library, NY. *Invoking the Spirit:*

*Worship Traditions in the African World.* October 2, 1994 — January 16, 1995.

The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD. *A Legacy of Faith: Ethiopian Orthodoxy in America.* October 13, 1993 — January 6, 1994.

The Museum of Modern Art, New York. *From the Permanent Collection,* a group show. September 1993 — March 1994.

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. *Portraits of Romare Bearden: Memory and Metaphor.* April 14 — August 11, 1991.

The National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., *The Official Cabinet Portraits of the Carter Administration,* a group show. September 25 — November 30, 1980.

Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. *Black Woman/Drums of Life.* March 10 — 14, 1979.

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, La Fonte Circle, Washington, D.C. *Black Woman/Drums of Life.* February 6 — 21, 1978.

American Embassy Gallery, Berlin, Germany. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* January 04 — January 28, 1977.

American Embassy Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* December 01, 1976 — March, 1977

American Embassy Gallery, Cologne, Germany. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* November 3 — November 30, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Georgetown, Guyana. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* November 1 — 30, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Tuebingen, Germany. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* October 4 — October 28, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* September 06 — September 27, 1976



American Embassy Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* September 01 —  
October 16, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Kingston, Jamaica. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* August 15 — October 01, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Bogota, Columbia. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* August 01 — October 01, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* June 20 — July 20, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Hannover, Germany.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* June 08 — July 05, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Montevideo, Uruguay.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* June 01 — July 15, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Bridgetown, Barbados.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* June 15 — July 15, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Quito, Ecuador. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* May 15 — June 15, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* May 03 — May 21, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Vienna, Austria. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* April — May, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Lima, Peru. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* April 01 — May 01, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Guatemala, Guatemala.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* May 01 — June 01, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Santiago, Chile. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* April 01 — May 01, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, San Jose, Costa Rica.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* April 19 — April 30, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Port of Spain, Trinidad.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* April 15 — July 15, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Munich, Germany. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* February 25 — March 12, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery,, Naples, Italy. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* February 20 — March 12, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Managua, Nicaragua.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* February 01 — March 01, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Port Au Prince, Haiti.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* February 01 — March 01, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* January 15 — February 15, 1976

American Embassy Gallery, Rome, Italy. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* January 01 — February 12, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Bonn, Germany. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* January, 1976.

American Embassy Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* November 1 — December 16, 1975

American Embassy Gallery, Athens, Greece. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* September — October, 1975

The Chaffee Art Center, Rutland, Vermont. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* September 1 — September 19, 1975.

Maison de la Negritude, Champagny, France. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* August 14 — September 1, 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Paris, France. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* August 1975

American Embassy Gallery, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* March 27 — April 30, 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Mogadishu, Somalia.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.*" March 19 — April 30, 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life.* March 11 — March 15, 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Yaounde, Cameroon.  
*Chester Higgins Jr.:Drums of Life."* March 3 — March 31, 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Tananarive, Madagascar. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. March 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Conakry, Guinea. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. March 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Lome, Togo. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. March 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Freetown, Sierra Leone. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. March 1975.

University of Ghana Gallery, Accra, Ghana. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. February 24 — March 31, 1975.

American Embassy Gallery, Dakar, Senegal. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. February 17 — February 28, 1975.

The Nigerian Museum, Lagos, Nigeria. *Chester Higgins Jr.: Drums of Life*. February 10 — February 21, 1975

National Urban League/United Negro College Fund Gallery. *Chester Higgins Jr.* November 1 — December 31, 1974

Acts of Art Gallery, New York City. *Drums of Life*. May 31 — June 22, 1974.

### **Selected Reviews and Articles**

David Schonauer, "*Chester Higgins Jr.: 'I believe the spirit of things exists in everything.'*" *American Photographer*, April 12, 2016. [bit.ly/1VRnFQs](http://bit.ly/1VRnFQs)

The Staff, "*Chester Higgins: Apparitions Portfolio.*" *The Eye of Photography*, February 24, 2015. Paris. <http://bit.ly/24jXrJo>

Charles Henry Rowell, "*The Signature of the Spirit: An interview.*" *Callaloo Journal*, John Hopkins University Press. Volume 35, Number 1. Pages 135-155. 2012

Robert Ayers, "*Stars of Ethiopia.*" NYU Kimmel Center. *ARTnews*, June 2011, New York Reviews, page 107

Meyers, William, "*Sweetness And Light: Reveling In Simplicity.*" *The Wall Street Journal*, March 26, 2011

Leigh Raiford, "*Notes Toward a Photographic Practice of Diaspora.*" *English Language Notes* 64.2, Fall/Winter 2006

Reyes, Damaso, "Memoirs of a Black Times photographer," *The New York Amsterdam News*, December 30, 2004.

Prince, Richard, *Echo of the Spirit*, December 13, 2004  
[www.maynardije.org/columns/dickprince](http://www.maynardije.org/columns/dickprince).

Gagon, Dave, "Echo of the Spirit book show the power of images," *Deseret News*, Salt Lake City, Utah. December 12, 2004.

Gaines, Luan, 'The Spirit informs my daily living,' Amazon.com. Dana Point, Ca. October 19, 2004

Jeanne Fox-Alston, *Commissioned by the Spirit. black issues*, November/December 2004

Capturing Our Truths, *Echo of the Spirit*, Books, *Essence*, November 2004

Barnes, Allison, *Echo of the Spirit: A Photographer's Journey*, *Southern Living*, October 2004.

Riippa, Laurele, *Echo of the Spirit*, *Publishers Weekly*. October 4, 2004

A Photographer's Journey, *Publishers Weekly*, NYC. August 2, 2004

Thomas-Lynn, Felecia, "Picture this: People aging with grace," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. May 19, 2003.

Applewhite, DeVon, "Chester Higgins Jr.: Photographer for The New York Times" *The Dothan Eagle*, Dothan, Alabama, February 23, 2003

George, Mike, "For the ages; Tubman exhibit shows beauty, subtleties of growing old." *The Telegraph*. Macon, Georgia. August 16, 2002

Thompson, Clifford. Profile on Chester Higgins Jr., *Current Biography*, June 2002

Green, Ronald J. "Elder Grace: The Nobility of Aging." *dialogue*, Columbus, Ohio. September/October 2001.

Karafin, Amy, "Chester Higgins Jr.," *New York Shows Review. ARTnews*, Summer 2001.

Harkins, Deborah, "For seniors only: Old Is Beautiful," *Daily News* column, July 8, 2001

Trares, Ryan, "Amazing 'Grace' Noble faces in portraits," *The Columbus Dispatch*, The Arts, June 06, 2001.

Uma Prakash, "Chester Higgins Jr., at The New-York Historical Society," *Asian Art News*, March/April 2001

Rexer, Lyle, "Through The Camera, A Closer Look at Age," *The New York Times Sunday Arts & Leisure*, February 25, 2001.

Harrison, Barbara Grizzuti, "The Fountain of Age", *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*, February 4, 2001

Keller, Judith, "Divine Works in Progress: The *Elder Grace* of Chester Higgins Jr.", *Aging Today* (American Society on Aging). January/February 2001.

Stansbury, Bruce, "*Elder Grace*". African Voices. Winter 2000

Schwartz, Jesse Witkin, "Faces of Experience", *Our Town* (NYC), November 30, 2000.

Willis, Deborah, "*Reflections in Black*" June 2000. W.W. Norton

Vicki Goldberg & Robert Silberman, "*American Photography: A Century of Images*", 1999. Chronicle Books  
Jones, Malcolm, "Black on Black," *Newsweek*, Arts & Entertainment, page 70, April 24, 2000

Larson, Kay, "Landscapes of the Soul," *The New York Times/Weekend*, Fine Arts, March 5, 1999

Lewter, Lani Russell, "NYTimes photographer exhibits images of womanhood," *The Amsterdam News* (NYC) February 18-24, 1999

Hicks, Robert, "Chester Higgins let the spirit tell the painful story, on film," *The Villager* (NYC) February 10, 1999

Zera, Francis, "Giving a face to African ancestral culture," *The Georgia Guardian* (Savannah), February 5-February 11, 1999.

Downs, Gene, "From behind the lens, Applause for Humanity," *Savannah Morning News* (GA) Sunday, February 7, 1999

Jahannes, Ja, "*Feeling the Spirit: An invitation to Oneness*," *Creative Loafing*, Savannah, GA News, Arts &

Entertainment Weekly. Vol. 5, No 43, January 13 —January 19, 1999

Chenoweth, Doral, "From Africa outward: Photographer passionately documents scattering of a people," *The Columbus Dispatch* (Ohio), September 15, 1998

Jackson, David Earl, "Works by photographer Chester Higgins Jr. reflect 26-year search for 'his people' across the globe," *Tri-State Defender*, Memphis, TN, May 16 —20, 1998

Pincus, Robert L., "Higgins Discovers The Soul of A Race Through His Lens", *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, February 19, 1998

Charry, Rebecca, "Spiritual connections," *Birmingham Post-Herald*, Art Review, October 10, 1997

Iverem, Esther, "The Photographer's Palpable Images Of the Unseen Spirit," *The Washington Post*, Style, February 19, 1997

Coleman, A.D., "Celebrating Survival, The Photography of Chester Higgins," *ARTnews*, February 1997

Bolz, Diane, "Picturing the face of the African Diaspora," *Smithsonian*, February 1997

McDonald, Kristy, "Photographer shares African spirit," *The Detroit News*, The Arts, November 14, 1996.

Lyles, Charlise, "Invoking the Spirit," *Dayton Daily News Lifestyle* (OH), October 26, 1996.

Seidel, Mitchell, "Show focuses on Worldwide African Culture," *The Sunday Star-Ledger* (NJ), September 15, 1996.

Winston, Diane, "Sermons in black and white," *Asbury Park Press* (NJ), August 17, 1996

Wildman, David, "Photos aim to humanize Africa's history," *The Boston Sunday Globe*, July 28, 1996

Editors, "Photojournalist documents the cultural identities of Africans worldwide" *Middlesex News* (MA), July 25, 1996

Allen, Casey, "Chester Higgins Jr., Part III: Adapting to His Surroundings," *Studio Photography*, July 1996

McQuaid, Cate, "Weaving Africa's humanity into art," *The Boston Globe*, June 27, 1996

Allen, Casey, "Chester Higgins Jr., Part II: Applying His Craft Worldwide," *Studio Photography*, June 1996

"A Celebration of One Hundred Years in Pictures, 1896 – 1996" *The New York Times Magazine*, June 09, 1996

Allen, Casey, "Chester Higgins Jr. Part I: Relaying His Visual Message," *Studio Photography*, May 1996

The Editors, "Chester Higgins Jr.," *American Way*, December 01, 1995

Altabe, Joan, "Self-images in black (and white)". *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, October 22, 1995.

Hultman, Tamela, "Feeling the Spirit," *DoubleTake*, Fall 1995

Hartshorn, Willis, "Director's Interview," International Center of Photography *Fall Program Guide*, Fall 1995

Kendricks, Neil, "Driven By The 'Spirit'," *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, February 9, 1995.

Scheinin, Richard, "African Spirit," *San Jose Mercury News*, February 26, 1995

Hughes, Holly Stuart, "Chester Higgins' *Feeling The Spirit*," *Photo District News*, February 1995.

Charles, Nick, "Portrait of A People" *Daily News*, September 05, 1994

Colford, Paul D., "The Black Experience" *New York Newsday*, September 22, 1994

Donahue, Deirdre, "Photography," *USA TODAY*, November 30, 1994

Cahan, Richard, "Images for the Season," *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 27, 1994

Harris, Eddy L., "Things to be Respected," *The New York Times Book Review*, November 20, 1994.

Carrillo, Karen, "A Global Beat," *Quarterly Black Review of Books*, November/December 1994

Woods, Paula L., "bookin," *YSB*, December/January 1995

Holt, Patricia, "Gift-wrapped Spirits and Places," *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 04, 1994

Johnson, Adrienne M., "Inner Visions," *Los Angeles Times*. December 4, 1994.

Eder, Richard, "From Image to Icon" *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, December 11, 1994.

Eder, Richard, "Casting Light Upon Their Souls," *New York Newsday*. December 11, 1994.

Chester Higgins Jr., "*Feeling the Spirit*: Worshippers in New York Tap Ancestral Roots. An eight-page photo-essay. *The New York Times Magazine*, April 19, 1992

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Rosenblum, Naomi, *A World History of Photography*, "The Straight Image," page 532. Abbeville Press, 1984, New York.

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"Prevailing Images," *Esquire Magazine*. January 1980.

Rupp, Carla Marie, "People-watching Pastime Pays Off for Photographer." *Editor and Publisher*, April 22, 1978.

Edwards, Les, "An American Photographer: Chester Higgins Jr." (a half hour film aired over PBS-TV). University of Minnesota, 1977.

Trescott, Jacqueline, "Focusing Past the Stereotypes." *The Washington Post*, August 8, 1974.

Sheppard, Nathaniel Jr., "Love Marks Higgins Photos of Blacks." *The New York Times*, June 14, 1974.

Emerson, Frank, "His Photo Subjects Are Black But the Message Is Universal." *The New York Post*, June 20, 1974.

Coleman, A. D., "Warm and Gentle, but Incomplete." *The New York Times*, June 16, 1974

"Photography: Chester Higgins Jr." *New York Age*, June 15, 1974.

Fraser, Gerald C., "Going Out Guide." *The New York Times*, June 3, 1974.

Langer, Don, "Camera Talk." *The New York Post*, May 30, 1974.



Coleman, A. D., "Black Woman." *The New York Times*, January 17, 1971.

McDougall, Harold and Higgins, Chester Jr., "Men on Women," *Essence Magazine*, January 1971.

### **Television reviews and interviews**

CUNY TV, *Black America* with Carol Jenkins, "Chester Higgins." 14 December 2016. <http://bit.ly/1pO6HGC>

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NY1.com. "Former Times Photographer Still Enjoy Capturing Change." March 08, 2015. New York City <http://bit.ly/2h1Ztfc>

YouTube. CUNY-TV, *African American Legends*, "The Photographic Journey of Chester Higgins." April 1, 2013. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>

YouTube.com. Chester Higgins, *An Ongoing Journey*. May 25, 2012.

NY1 TV, *CloseUp* with Sam Roberts, "My Soul Flies Home to Africa." May 20, 2012. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>

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NY1 – *CloseUp* show with Sam Roberts. Thursday, October 21, 2004. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>

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XM Satellite Radio Channel 169. *Power Talk with Bernie McCain*

WNET-NY, "Brotherman," 21 November 2002

PBS-TV, "*Brotherman*," June 2002. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>  
WNBC-TV, *Evening News* segment on *Aging Issues*.  
May 06, 2002  
A&E Cable, *Open Book*, Sunday, June 10, 2001  
NBC-TV, *The Today Show*, Williard Scott's segment,  
February 20, 2001  
NY1-*CloseUp*, *The New York Times Show*, January 2,  
2001  
NBC-TV, *News 4, Today New York*, Sunday, December  
25, 2000  
PBS-TV, *American Century of Photography*, October 13,  
1999  
FOX5 TV, *Today in New York*, March 7, 1999  
FOX5-TV, "*Today in New York*" February 26, 1999  
WNBC-TV, "*Positively Black*" January 14, 1999  
WABC-TV, "*Eyewitness News*," February 2, 1999  
NY1 Cable, "*CloseUp, The New York Times Show* "  
January 21, 1999  
WABC-TV, "*News Views with Roz Abrams*," January 27,  
1996  
NY1 Cable, "*New York Times CloseUp*," December 13,  
1995. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>  
PBS-National, "*The News Hour*," December 01, 1995  
<http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>  
WNYC/PBS-TV, "*African American Legends*," NYC local,  
Sept 95  
WABC-TV, "*Like It Is*," New York local, July 1995.  
<http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>  
WHUR-TV, "*Freedom Forum, Author Series*," February  
15, 1995. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>  
WCBS-TV, "*CBS Sunday Morning News*," January 01,  
1995. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>  
WCBS-TV, "*Good Morning*," December 22, 1994  
NY1 Cable, "*New York Times CloseUp*," October 26,  
1994. <http://bit.ly/2h2WBRt>

## **Fellowships and Grants**

International Center of Photography

The Ford Foundation  
The National Endowment for the Arts  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
The Ford Foundation  
The Andy Warhol Foundation/ICP  
Open Society Institute

**In the Permanent Collections of** (selected listing)

The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
International Center of Photography  
Library of Congress  
The New York Public Library/The Schomburg Center  
The New York Times Company  
Tuskegee University  
The Phelps-Stokes Fund  
The Jewish Museum  
Virginia Museum of Art  
Oprah Winfrey  
The Buhl Fund  
The Roosevelt Hospital  
Queens College  
Toni Fay  
Hale House  
Yvonne Preshay  
Birmingham Civil Rights Museum  
The Brooklyn Museum of Art  
Smithsonian, National Museum of Natural History  
Liati Financial Group  
Eleanor Merritt Darlington  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
Marcella Maxwell  
Pamela Thomas-Graham  
B. Smith  
Jeanette Lerman  
Marriot Hotel, Brooklyn  
Dale & Johnnie Cochran  
Dormitory Authority of New York State  
New-York Historical Society

Daniel Baker  
The Detroit Institute of Arts  
Robert Russo  
David McFadden  
Bonny Reiss  
Haskell Ward  
Paul Coates  
Sony Music Entertainment  
Michael Malafronte  
Santa Clara University  
Carolyn & Andrew Wright  
Kimberly Kissam  
Sylvia Iskander  
Leila M Straus  
Lutz Teutloff  
Michael Warren  
Jennifer Gachiri  
Anna Winand  
Richard Cook  
Haskell Ward

### **Group Shows**

Studio Museum Harlem, New York City. "*Harlem Postcards Spring 2016.*" March 24 — June 26, 2016

Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Memphis, TN. '*Ashe to Amen*'.  
Curated by Leslie King-Hammond. October 20, 2013 —  
January 5, 2014

Reginald Lewis Museum, Baltimore, MD. '*Ashe to Amen*.  
Curated by Leslie King-Hammond. June 22 — September 29,  
2013.

Museum of Biblical Arts, New York. '*Ashe to Amen*.  
Curated by Leslie King-Hammond. February 15 — May 26,  
2013.

Teutloff Museum/Alatadter Nikolaikirche Bielefeld,  
Neidernstrabe, Germany. '*The Face of Freedom*'. Curated by  
Siegfried Zielenski. March 20 — 25, 2013

Keith de Lellis Gallery, New York, NY, '*Art & Soul: Vintage Photographs by Four African-American Photographers*', February 8 — March 23, 2013

Gallatin Galleries NYU, "*CPT: Time, History and Memory*," New York University. Curated by Salome Asega. February 6 — February 24, 2012.

The Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, Tx. "*The Art of Caring: A Look at Life through Photography*" Curated by Cynthia Goodman. October 22 — January 1, 2012.

Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, Fl. "*The Art of Caring: A Look at Life through Photography*" Curated by Cynthia Goodman. June 5 — September 25, 2011

Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, Oh. "*The Art of Caring: A Look at Life through Photography*" Curated by Cynthia Goodman. July 9 — September 19, 2010

New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, La. '*The Art of Caring: A Look at Life through Photography*' Curated by Cynthia Goodman. May 16 — October 11, 2009.

Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. "*Lost Kingdoms: Ancient Sudan*", and Shatten Gallery, "Nubian Dreams, June 20 — August 15, 2008

Museum of Fine Arts, Seoul, South Korea. Photo Triennale, "*Trans, Transit, Transfer.*" November 9 — December 18, 2005.

MoAD, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA. "*Girl from Tamale, Ghana.*" December 02, 2005 until. Permanent atrium centerpiece photographic installation.

Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian, Anacostia, MD. "*Reclaiming Midwives: Pillars of Community Support.*" November 13th — April 2, 2006. Centerpiece photographic installation.

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston, MA. "*West African Gold: Akan Regalia from the Glassell Collection.*" November 2, 2005 — March 26, 2006. Centerpiece photographic installation.

Forty Acres and a Mule Gallery, Sacramento, Ca.  
"Saturday Night/Sunday Morning," curated by Deborah Willis. January 31— March 25, 2006.

City Gallery East, City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Atlanta, Ga. "Saturday Night/Sunday Morning," curated by Deborah Willis. October 14 — November 11, 2005.

The African American Museum in Philadelphia,  
"Saturday Night! Sunday Morning," curated by Deborah Willis. April 10<sup>th</sup> — September 17, 2005.

The Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington, DC.  
"Common Ground: Discovering Community in 150 Years of Art, Selections from the Collection of Julia J. Norell. October 23, 2004 — January 31, 2005.

African American Museum in Philadelphia, PA. .  
"Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present," a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. February — July 2004.

Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine.  
"Exhibiting Signs of Age," February 12 — March 28, 2004

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL. "In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. January 3 — March 28, 2004

UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California. "Exhibiting Signs of Age". October 8, 2003 — January 18, 2004

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN. "In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. August 30 — November 30, 2003

Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, New York. "In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. May 3 — July 27, 2003

Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN. .  
"Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840

*to the Present,*" a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. January 13, 2003 — April 20, 2003.

Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN.  
"*In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,*" a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. January 4 — March 30, 2003.

International Center of Photography, New York City.  
"*ONLY SKIN DEEP: Changing Visions of the American Self*". Curated by Brian Wallis and Coco Fusco. December 13, 2002.

Bass Museum of Art, Miami, FL . "*In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,*" a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. September 7 — December 1, 2002

Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama. "Views of the Collection: Our Alabama Heritage." August 18 — November 10, 2002.

DuSable Museum, Chicago, IL. . "*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present,*" a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. May 11, 2002 — June 23, 2002.

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, Michigan. "*In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,*" a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. May 11 — August 4, 2002

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, Michigan. "*In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,*" a group show curated by Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. January 12 — April 7, 2002.

Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.  
"*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present,*" a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. January 12, 2002 through March 11, 2002.

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City, NY.  
"*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840*

*to the Present*," a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. October 4 — December 16, 2001.

Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit, MI. "*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present*," a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. July 1, 2001 — September 2, 2001

American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO. "*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present*," a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. November 15, 2000 — February 28, 2001.

The Jewish Museum, New York City. "*Portraits on Paper: A Sampling from the Collection*," December 2001 — February 10, 2002.

America's Black Holocaust Museum, Milwaukee, WI. "*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present*," a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. August 26 — October 12, 2000.

Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C. "*Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present*," a group show curated by Deborah Willis Kennedy. February 3 — July 30, 2000.

Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York City. "*Points of Entry: A Nation of Strangers*," Curated by Arthur Ollman. May 1998 — August 1998

Museum of Tolerance, Simon Wiensenthal Center, Los Angeles, Ca. "*Points of Entry: A Nation of Strangers*," Curated by Arthur Ollman. March 1, 1998 — May 8, 1998.

Center for Fine Arts, Miami, Fl. "*Points of Entry: A Nation of Strangers*," Curated by Arthur Ollman. September — November 30, 1997.

The Jewish Museum, New York City. "*Points of Entry: A Nation of Strangers*," Curated by Arthur Ollman. May — July 1997.

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia. *Picturing the South: 1860 to the Present*. June 15 — September 14, 1996.



Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC.,  
"*Songs of My People*," September 9 — October 22, 1995.

Paterson Museum, Paterson, NJ., "*Songs of My People*,"  
March 4 — April 16, 1995.

Anniston Museum of Natural History, Anniston, AL.  
"*Songs of My People*," December 31, 1994 — February 12,  
1995

St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO. "*Songs of My  
People*," September 30 — November 27, 1994.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX. "*Songs of My  
People*," August 27 — November 20, 1994.

African American Museum of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH.  
"*Songs of My People*," August 27 — October 9, 1994.

King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation, Savannah, GA. *Songs  
of My People*," June 25 — August 7, 1994.

Strong Museum, Rochester, NY. "*Songs of My People*,"  
Rochester, NY. June 18 — August 28, 1994.

North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC. "*Songs of  
My People*," June 4 — July 17, 1994.

National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center,  
Wilberforce, OH. "*Songs of My People*," April 23 — June 5,  
1994.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City. MO. "*Songs  
of My People*," March 19 — May 1, 1994.

San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA. "*Songs of My  
People*," March 19 — May 1, 1994.

Le Botanique, Brussels, Belgium. "*Songs of My People*,"  
January 12 — February 20, 1994.

Children's Museum, Indianapolis, IN. "*Songs of My  
People*," January 8 — February 20, 1994.

New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA. "*Songs  
of My People*," December 18, 1993 — March 6, 1994.

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD. "*Songs of My  
People*," December 18, 1993 — April 3, 1994.

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN. "*Songs  
of My People*," October 30 — December 12, 1993.

Patrick & Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art,  
Milwaukee, WI. "*Songs of My People*," September  
18 — November 28, 1993.

Norton Gallery & School of Art, West Palm Beach, FL.  
"*Songs of My People*," September 4 — November 28, 1993.

Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS. "*Songs of My  
People*," August 21 — October 3, 1993.

Montreux Convention & Exhibition Center, Montreux,  
Switzerland. "*Songs of My People*," July 2 — July 17, 1993.

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI. "*Songs of My  
People*," June 19 — August 29, 1993.

African-American Historical & Cultural Museum, Fresno,  
CA. "*Songs of My People*," June 12 — August 8, 1993.

Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH. "*Songs of  
My People*," June 12 — August 7, 1993.

Canal Isabel II, Comunidad de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.  
"*Songs of My People*," May 17 — June 30, 1993.

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. "*Songs of My  
People*," April 1 — May 16, 1993.

Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO. "*Songs  
of My People*," March 20 — May 30, 1993.

Idea Books Gallery, Milan, Italy. "*Songs of My People*,"  
March 11 — April 25, 1993.

Paul Robeson Cultural Center, Penn State Univ.,  
University Park, PA. "*Songs of My People*," February 6 —  
March 21, 1993.

Le Scuderie di Palazzo Ruspoli, Rome, Italy. "*Songs of  
My People*," February 2 — March 5, 1993.

Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL. "*Songs  
of My People*," February 1 — February 28, 1993.

Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA. "*Songs of My People*,"  
January 30 — March 7, 1993.

The King Arts Complex, Columbus, OH. "*Songs of My  
People*," November 24 — December 27, 1992.

Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY. "*Songs  
of My People*," September 19 1992 — January 3, 1993.

Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL. "*Songs of My  
People*," June 27 — August 9, 1992.

California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA.  
"Songs of My People," May 30 — August 23, 1992.

Afro-American Historical & Cultural Museum,  
Philadelphia, PA. "Songs of My People," April 18 — May 31,  
1992.

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. "Songs of My  
People," February 15 — May 3, 1992.

**AWARDS** (selected listing)

Legacy Artist Award

Global Citizenship Award, International Youth Leadership  
Institute.

The Gordon Parks Legend Award

Nubian Women's Art Circle Award

**Presenter & Lecturer**

Brooklyn Historical Society, Images of my diaspora.  
March 3, 2016

SoHo Photo Gallery, "Contemporary Photographers"  
lecture series, February 11, 2016, 15 White Street, NYC.

New York Public Library, Midtown Branch, New York  
City. "Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile." June  
26, 2013.

American Research Center in Egypt, New York City.  
"Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile." June 7,  
2013.

Bates College, Lewiston, Maine. Survey of published  
works and student workshops. May 1-3, 2013.

The Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.  
"Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile." April 23,  
2013.

Brooklyn Photo Salon, Brooklyn, New York. "Dancing  
With My Spirit." April 21, 2013.

Southeast Queens Camera Club, St. Albans, Queens.  
"Dancing With My Spirit." April 16, 2013.

The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. "*Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile.*" James Madison Council Members Room, April 10, 2013.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. "*Christianity First Centuries in Africa.*" *Reflections on Christianity: Ethiopia's Living Tradition.*" Sunday, October 2, 2005. Slide talk at 3PM in The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium.

New York University and NYU in Ghana at Ashesi. Accra, Ghana. "*Framing the Triangle, Rethinking the experience of the African Diaspora.*" Slide talk, Tuesday, September 27, 2005.

New York University/Harvard University. "*Beauty and Fashion: The Black Portrait Symposium.*" April 2 —3, 2011. Self-representation in Africa and the African Diaspora.

The International Center of Photography

The New-York Historical Society

The Museum of African Art

New York University Medical Center

Cornell University Hospital

Virginia Museum of Art

Bates College

Dartmouth College

New York Public Library

### **External Links**

NPR: Leonard Lopate radio interview on *Ancient Nubia*.

<http://bit.ly/2hdZIXf>

American Photographer Profile, *Chester Higgins Jr.*, "*I believe the spirit of things exists in everything.*"

[bit.ly/1VRnFQs](http://bit.ly/1VRnFQs)

'Life & Work' video Podcast by The Vision Project:

<http://bit.ly/2g5L4kE>

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