

african american history images

African American History Images: A Visual Narrative of Resilience and Resistance

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Abstract: This article explores the powerful role of "African American history images" in shaping our understanding of the Black experience in America. Through analysis of key images and personal anecdotes, we examine how these visual narratives have challenged dominant narratives, preserved cultural heritage, and fostered a deeper appreciation for the resilience and contributions of African Americans throughout history.

The Power of a Single Image: Framing Narratives of the Past

"African American history images" are not simply static representations of the past; they are powerful tools that shape our understanding of history itself. A single photograph can encapsulate the complexities of an era, challenge dominant narratives, and spark dialogue across generations. I remember vividly, as a child, seeing a photograph of my great-grandmother, a sharecropper in the Mississippi Delta, her face etched with both hardship and unwavering strength. That image, more than any family story, instilled in me a deep understanding of the resilience of my ancestors. This is the power inherent in "African American history images." They are not just pictures; they are fragments of lived experience, offering glimpses into lives often marginalized or ignored in traditional historical accounts.

From Slavery to Freedom: Visual Representations of a Struggle

The earliest "African American history images" are often stark and brutal, reflecting the dehumanizing conditions of slavery. Photographs of enslaved people, often taken for anthropological or evidentiary purposes, reveal not just physical hardship but also the quiet dignity and enduring spirit of those who survived unimaginable cruelty. These images, while painful to view, are crucial to understanding the horrors of slavery and the lasting legacy of its trauma. Consider, for example, the famous photographs of formerly enslaved people taken after the Civil War. These images, while often posed and formal, hint at the profound emotional and psychological impact of emancipation. These "African American history images" become powerful testaments to survival and hope, offering a counter-narrative to the dominant image of the docile, subservient slave.

The Harlem Renaissance: Capturing a Cultural Explosion

The "African American history images" produced during the Harlem Renaissance offer a striking contrast to earlier representations. Photographs and paintings from this period vividly capture the vibrant cultural explosion of Black artistic expression, intellectual achievement, and social activism. Images of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and other luminaries of the era showcase a community flourishing in the face of adversity. These images are not just portraits; they are visual manifestos of Black pride, talent, and self-determination, enriching our understanding of "African American history images" as expressions of cultural power.

The Civil Rights Movement: Images of Protest and Progress

The "African American history images" emanating from the Civil Rights Movement are arguably the most iconic and widely disseminated. Photographs of marches, sit-ins, and acts of civil disobedience powerfully document the struggle for racial equality. Images of Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and countless other activists serve as symbols of courage, perseverance, and the pursuit of justice. However, it's crucial to acknowledge the complexities within this visual narrative. While some images emphasize the non-violent nature of the movement, others depict the brutal violence inflicted upon protestors, underscoring the inherent risks and sacrifices involved in the fight for equality. A critical analysis of "African American history images" from this period allows us to grapple with both the triumphs and the tragedies of the era.

Beyond the March: Exploring Diverse Representations

The study of "African American history images" must extend beyond the well-known icons and encompass the broader range of experiences within the Black community. We need to explore images depicting everyday life, family gatherings, community celebrations, and personal moments. These less publicized images provide a more nuanced and complete picture of Black life, moving beyond the narrow focus on protest and struggle. These "African American history images" reveal the richness and diversity of African American culture, showcasing family life, community building, and the preservation of traditions.

Contemporary "African American History Images" and the Ongoing Struggle

Today, "African American history images" continue to play a vital role in shaping our understanding of race and identity. Contemporary photographers and artists are actively challenging historical representations and creating new visual narratives that reflect the complexities of the Black experience in the 21st century. From images documenting the ongoing struggle for racial justice to depictions of contemporary Black life, these images offer fresh perspectives and contribute to a more inclusive and accurate historical record.

Conclusion:

The study of "African American history images" is an ongoing and crucial endeavor. These visual narratives not only document the past but also shape our understanding of the present and inform our vision for the future. By carefully examining these images, acknowledging their complexities, and embracing diverse perspectives, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the rich history, resilience, and ongoing contributions of African Americans to our nation and the world.

FAQs:

1. Where can I find collections of African American history images? Many archives, museums (like the National Museum of African American History and Culture), and online databases house extensive collections.
2. How can I use African American history images ethically? Always cite sources, respect the subjects' dignity, and avoid perpetuating harmful stereotypes.
3. What are the limitations of using only images to understand history? Images offer only one perspective; they should be combined with textual

sources and oral histories for a complete understanding.

4. How do African American history images challenge dominant narratives? By portraying diverse experiences and countering stereotypical representations.
5. What role do African American photographers play in shaping the narrative? They are crucial in providing authentic and often unseen perspectives.
6. How have technological advancements impacted the preservation and access to African American history images? Digitalization has greatly increased access while also presenting challenges in terms of ownership and control.
7. What are some ethical considerations when curating and exhibiting African American history images? Respect for families, sensitivity to potentially traumatic content, and representation of diverse voices are paramount.
8. How can African American history images be used in education? They serve as powerful teaching tools, sparking discussion and fostering empathy.
9. How are contemporary artists using photography and other visual media to continue the narrative of African American history? They're challenging traditional representations and creating new narratives of identity, resilience, and joy.

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african american history images: Pictures with Purpose Michèle Gates Moresi, Laura Coyle, Tanya Sheehan, 2019 Features remarkable portraits of African Americans before and after Emancipation, including images of young African American soldiers in Civil War-era military uniform.

african american history images: Unseen Dana Canedy, Darcy Eveleigh, Damien Cave, Rachel L. Swarns, 2017-10-17 Hundreds of stunning images from Black history have been buried in the New York Times photo archives for decades. Four Times staff members unearth these overlooked photographs and investigate the stories behind them in this remarkable collection. New York Times photo editor Darcy Eveleigh made an unwitting discovery when she found dozens of never-before-published photographs from Black history in the crowded bins of the Times archives in 2016. She and three colleagues, Dana Canedy, Damien Cave, and Rachel L. Swarns, began exploring the often untold stories behind the images and chronicling them in a series entitled "Unpublished Black History" that was later published by the newspaper. Unseen showcases those photographs and digs even deeper into the Times's archives to include 175 photographs and the stories behind them in this extraordinary collection. Among the entries is a 27-year-old Jesse Jackson leading an anti-discrimination rally in Chicago; Rosa Parks arriving at a Montgomery courthouse in Alabama; a candid shot of Aretha Franklin backstage at the Apollo Theater; Ralph Ellison on the streets of his Manhattan neighborhood; the firebombed home of Malcolm X; and a series by Don Hogan Charles, the first black photographer hired by the Times, capturing life in Harlem in the 1960s. Why were these striking photographs not published? Did the images not arrive in time to make the deadline? Were they pushed aside by the biases of editors, whether intentional or unintentional? Unseen dives deep into the Times's archives to showcase this rare collection of photographs and stories for the very first time.

african american history images: Hidden Witness Jackie Napoleon Wilson, 2002-02-09 Few images of black Americans in the Civil War period exist or have survived, but now the granddaughter of a South Carolina slave has assembled the most comprehensive and significant collection of such rare images ever compiled. Bringing the truth of their daily lives to light, scenes of maternal affection, matrimony, war, and the grim reality of the master-slave relationship will help readers focus their perceptions of the black American experience in ways not otherwise available in modern history studies.

african american history images: Picturing Children Marian Wright Edelman, National Museum of African American History and Culture (U.S.), 2016 Features images which speak to past, present and future experiences of African American youth.

african american history images: African Americans of Portland Oregon Black Pioneers, Kimberly Stowers Moreland, 2013 The prolific journey of African Americans in Portland is rooted in the courageous determination of black pioneers to begin anew in an unfamiliar and often hostile territory. By 1890, the majority of Oregon's black population resided in Multnomah County, and Portland became the center of a thriving black middle-class community.

african american history images: African Americans in Chicago Lowell D. Thompson, 2012 The story of black Chicago is so rich that few know it all. It began long before the city itself. The first white man here was a black man, Potawatami natives reportedly said about Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, the brown-skinned man recognized as Chicago's first non-Indian settler. It's all here: from the site of DuSable's cabin--now smack-dab in the middle of Chicago's Magnificent Mile--to images of famous and infamous residents like boxers Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali, and Joe Louis. Here are leaders and cultural touchstones like Jesse Binga's bank, Robert S. Abbott's Chicago Defender, legendary filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, Ida B. Wells, the Eighth Regiment, Jesse Jackson, Oprah, and much more . . . including a guy named Obama. Here is the black Chicago family album, of folks who made and never made the headlines, and pictures and stories of kinship and fellowship of African Americans leaving the violent, racist South and goin' to Chicago to find their piece of the American Dream. Chicago has been called the Second City, but black Chicago is second to none.

african american history images: Picture Freedom Jasmine Nichole Cobb, 2015-04-03 Picture Freedom provides a unique and nuanced interpretation of nineteenth-century African American life and culture. Focusing on visuality, print culture, and an examination of the parlor, Cobb has fashioned a book like none other, convincingly demonstrating how whites and blacks reimagined racial identity and belonging in the early republic.--Erica Armstrong Dunbar, author of *A Fragile Freedom: African American Women and Emancipation in the Antebellum City*

african american history images: Reflections in Black Deborah Willis, 2000 Shows that the history of black photographers intertwines with the story of African American life, as seen through photographs ranging from antebellum weddings and 1960s protest marches, to portraits of contemporary black celebrities.

african american history images: Creating Their Own Image Lisa E. Farrington, 2005 Creating Their Own Image marks the first comprehensive history of African-American women artists, from slavery to the present day. Using an analysis of stereotypes of Africans and African-Americans in western art and culture as a springboard, Lisa E. Farrington here richly details hundreds of important works--many of which deliberately challenge these same identity myths, of the carnal Jezebel, the asexual Mammy, the imperious Matriarch--in crafting a portrait of artistic creativity unprecedented in its scope and ambition. In these lavishly illustrated pages, some of which feature images never before published, we learn of the efforts of Elizabeth Keckley, fashion designer to Mary Todd Lincoln; the acclaimed sculptor Edmonia Lewis, internationally renowned for her neoclassical works in marble; and the artist Nancy Elizabeth Prophet and her innovative teaching techniques. We meet Laura Wheeler Waring who portrayed women of color as members of a socially elite class in stark contrast to the prevalent images of compliant maids, impoverished malcontents, and exotics others that proliferated in the inter-war period. We read of the painter Barbara Jones-Hogu's collaboration on the famed Wall of Respect, even as we view a rare photograph of Hugu in the process of painting the mural. Farrington expertly guides us through the fertile period of the Harlem Renaissance and the New Negro Movement, which produced an entirely new crop of artists who consciously imbued their work with a social and political agenda, and through the tumultuous, explosive years of the civil rights movement. Drawing on revealing interviews with numerous contemporary artists, such as Betye Saar, Faith Ringgold, Nanette Carter, Camille Billops, Xenobia Bailey, and many others, the second half of *Creating Their Own Image* probes more recent stylistic developments, such as abstraction, conceptualism, and post-modernism, never losing sight of the

struggles and challenges that have consistently influenced this body of work. Weaving together an expansive collection of artists, styles, and periods, Farrington argues that for centuries African-American women artists have created an alternative vision of how women of color can, are, and might be represented in American culture. From utilitarian objects such as quilts and baskets to a wide array of fine arts, *Creating Their Own Images* serves up compelling evidence of the fundamental human need to convey one's life, one's emotions, one's experiences, on a canvas of one's own making.

african american history images: *Posing Beauty* Deborah Willis, 2009 Showcases portrait photography of African Americans taken from the 1890s through the 2000s, along with text discussing the evolution of the idea of beauty for men and women.

african american history images: *African Americans of Denver* Ronald Jemal Stephens, La Wana M. Larson, Black American West Museum, 2008 The city of Denver was born during the great Pikes Peak or Bust gold rush of 1859 when flakes of placer gold were found where the South Platte River meets Cherry Creek. With the discovery of more gold, Denver became a boomtown, and African American pioneers began to arrive in search of prosperity and a better future. Initially, Denver's African Americans lived scattered throughout the city and in the Cherry Creek area. By the late 1890s, most had relocated to the Five Points Neighborhood. Many worked in Denver during the week and farmed their homesteads in Dearfield on the weekends. They often spent their holidays at Winks Lodge and summers at Camp Nizhone.

african american history images: *Freedom* Manning Marable, Leith Mullings, 2005-04-01 A monumental visual record of African American history since the 19th-century.

african american history images: *African Americans in Los Angeles* Karin L. Stanford, 2010 The notion of Los Angeles as a wonderful place of opportunity contributed to the western migration of thousands of Americans, including African Americans escaping racism and violence in the South. But Los Angeles blacks encountered a white backlash, and the doors of opportunity were closed in the form of housing covenants, job discrimination, and school segregation. African Americans fought for equality, building strength in community and collective identity that became their ongoing Los Angeles legacy. This story, encapsulated here in vintage photographs, encompasses the settlers of African descent, antislavery and antidiscrimination efforts, and their cultural contributions on Central Avenue and in Hollywood. Also shown are important flash points, including the 1965 Watts uprising and the O. J. Simpson murder trial. The story of African Americans in Los Angeles is one of promise, dreams, and opportunity realized through survival, willfulness, and foresight.

african american history images: *Creating Black Americans* Nell Irvin Painter, 2006 Blending a vivid narrative with more than 150 images of artwork, Painter offers a history--from before slavery to today's hip-hop culture--written for a new generation.

african american history images: *Through the African American Lens* Deborah Willis, 2014 The first volume of *Double Exposure*, a major new series of books based on the Smithsonian NMAAHC's remarkable photography archive.

african american history images: *African American Faces of the Civil War* Ronald S. Coddington, 2012-08-20 A renowned collector of Civil War photographs and a prodigious researcher, Ronald S. Coddington combines compelling archival images with biographical stories that reveal the human side of the war. This third volume in his series on Civil War soldiers contains previously unpublished photographs of African American Civil War participants—many of whom fought to secure their freedom. During the Civil War, 200,000 African American men enlisted in the Union army or navy. Some of them were free men and some escaped from slavery; others were released by sympathetic owners to serve the war effort. *African American Faces of the Civil War* tells the story of the Civil War through the images of men of color who served in roles that ranged from servants and laborers to enlisted men and junior officers. Coddington discovers these portraits—cartes de visite, ambrotypes, and tintypes—in museums, archives, and private collections. He has pieced together each individual's life and fate based upon personal documents, military records, and pension files.

These stories tell of ordinary men who became fighters, of the prejudice they faced, and of the challenges they endured. *African American Faces of the Civil War* makes an important contribution to a comparatively understudied aspect of the war and provides a fascinating look into lives that helped shape America.

african american history images: Special Moments in African-American History, 1955-1996 Moneta Sleet (Jr.), 1998 Gathers selections from the work of the African American photojournalist.

african american history images: *Atlas of African-American History* James Ciment, 2007 A comprehensive history of African Americans, including culture, slavery, and civil rights.

african american history images: *The ABCs of Black History* Rio Cortez, 2020-12-08 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER B is for Beautiful, Brave, and Bright! And for a Book that takes a Bold journey through the alphabet of Black history and culture. Letter by letter, *The ABCs of Black History* celebrates a story that spans continents and centuries, triumph and heartbreak, creativity and joy. It's a story of big ideas--P is for Power, S is for Science and Soul. Of significant moments--G is for Great Migration. Of iconic figures--H is for Zora Neale Hurston, X is for Malcolm X. It's an ABC book like no other, and a story of hope and love. In addition to rhyming text, the book includes back matter with information on the events, places, and people mentioned in the poem, from Mae Jemison to W. E. B. Du Bois, Fannie Lou Hamer to Sam Cooke, and the Little Rock Nine to DJ Kool Herc.

african american history images: *A House Built by Slaves* Jonathan W. White, 2022-02-12 Readers of American history and books on Abraham Lincoln will appreciate what Los Angeles Review of Books deems an accessible book that puts a human face — many human faces — on the story of Lincoln's attitudes toward and engagement with African Americans and Publishers Weekly calls a rich and comprehensive account. Widely praised and winner of the 2023 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, this book illuminates why Lincoln's unprecedented welcoming of African American men and women to the White House transformed the trajectory of race relations in the United States. From his 1862 meetings with Black Christian ministers, Lincoln began inviting African Americans of every background into his home, from ex-slaves from the Deep South to champions of abolitionism such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth. More than a good-will gesture, the president conferred with his guests about the essential issues of citizenship and voting rights. Drawing from an array of primary sources, White reveals how African Americans used the White House as a national stage to amplify their calls for equality. Even more than 160 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln's inclusion of African Americans remains a necessary example in a country still struggling from racial divisions today.

african american history images: *Facing History: the Black Image in American Art 1710-...* Guy C. McElroy, 1996

african american history images: *Framing Blackness* Ed Guerrero, 2012-06-20 A challenge to Hollywood's one-dimensional images of African Americans.

african american history images: African American History in the United States of America (Volume Two) Tony Rose, 2024-05-16 In his international best-selling book, *America the Black Point of View: The Investigation and Study of the White People of America and Western Europe*, author, Tony Rose, defined who and what white people were and are. In his new book, *A Blueprint for Monetizing Reparations*, Tony Rose, tells the White people of America and Western Europe how, why, and what they must do to pay reparations to Africa, African Americans, and African-descended people. The first one hundred pages will tell you everything you need to know for White people to apologize and say thank you to Africa, Africans, African American slaves, Reparations; and their descendants for helping to build and make America a rich and great country.

african american history images: *The Mis-education of the Negro* Carter Godwin Woodson, 1969

african american history images: *In Our Own Image* Patrick H. Bass, Karen Pugh, 2001-11-01 The first visual document of black social and cultural history in America from World War II to the present, *In Our Own Image* is also a fascinating scrapbook that recounts simple, eloquent stories about home life, family reunions, worship, weddings, funerals, barbeques, barbershops,

beauty parlors, nightclubs, civic organizations, and celebrations. The unique recollections of African-Americans from a variety of backgrounds and age groups accompany more than 160 images from personal and archival collections, with such poignant ephemera as programs from cotillions and fashion shows, restaurant menus, movie posters, even ticket stubs. The authors have woven material from university and museum collections in Detroit, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Atlanta into a narrative photo book that forms a warm, loving record of African-American community, traditions, and family life in the latter half of the twentieth century.

african american history images: *National Museum of African American History and Culture* Nat'l Museum African American Hist/Cult, 2016-09-27 This souvenir book showcases some of the most influential and important treasures of the National Museum of African American History and Culture's collections. These include a hymn book owned by Harriet Tubman; ankle shackles used to restrain enslaved people on ships during the Middle Passage; a dress that Rosa Parks was making shortly before she was arrested; a vintage, open-cockpit Tuskegee Airmen trainer plane; Muhammad Ali's headgear; an 1835 Bill of Sale enslaving a young girl named Polly; and Chuck Berry's Cadillac. These objects tell us the full story of African American history, of triumphs and tragedies and highs and lows. This book, like the museum it represents, uses artifacts of African American history and culture as a lens into what it means to be an American.

african american history images: *The Negro Motorist Green Book* Victor H. Green, The Negro Motorist Green Book was a groundbreaking guide that provided African American travelers with crucial information on safe places to stay, eat, and visit during the era of segregation in the United States. This essential resource, originally published from 1936 to 1966, offered a lifeline to black motorists navigating a deeply divided nation, helping them avoid the dangers and indignities of racism on the road. More than just a travel guide, The Negro Motorist Green Book stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and resistance in the face of oppression, offering a poignant glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of the African American experience in the 20th century.

african american history images: *Making Black History* Jeffrey Aaron Snyder, 2018-02-01 In the Jim Crow era, along with black churches, schools, and newspapers, African Americans also had their own history. Making Black History focuses on the engine behind the early black history movement, Carter G. Woodson and his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). Author Jeffrey Aaron Snyder shows how the study and celebration of black history became an increasingly important part of African American life over the course of the early to mid-twentieth century. It was the glue that held African Americans together as "a people," a weapon to fight racism, and a roadmap to a brighter future. Making Black History takes an expansive view of the historical enterprise, covering not just the production of black history but also its circulation, reception, and performance. Woodson, the only professional historian whose parents had been born into slavery, attracted a strong network of devoted members to the ASNLH, including professional and lay historians, teachers, students, "race" leaders, journalists, and artists. They all grappled with a set of interrelated questions: Who and what is "Negro"? What is the relationship of black history to American history? And what are the purposes of history? Tracking the different answers to these questions, Snyder recovers a rich public discourse about black history that took shape in journals, monographs, and textbooks and sprang to life in the pages of the black press, the classrooms of black schools, and annual celebrations of Negro History Week. By lining up the Negro history movement's trajectory with the wider arc of African American history, Snyder changes our understanding of such signal aspects of twentieth-century black life as segregated schools, the Harlem Renaissance, and the emerging modern civil rights movement.

african american history images: *W. E. B. Du Bois's Data Portraits* The W.E.B. Du Bois Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2018-11-06 The colorful charts, graphs, and maps presented at the 1900 Paris Exposition by famed sociologist and black rights activist W. E. B. Du Bois offered a view into the lives of black Americans, conveying a literal and figurative representation of the color line. From advances in education to the lingering effects of slavery, these prophetic infographics —beautiful in design and powerful in content—make visible a wide spectrum

of black experience. W. E. B. Du Bois's Data Portraits collects the complete set of graphics in full color for the first time, making their insights and innovations available to a contemporary imagination. As Maria Popova wrote, these data portraits shaped how Du Bois himself thought about sociology, informing the ideas with which he set the world ablaze three years later in *The Souls of Black Folk*.

african american history images: Picturing Black History Daniela Edmeier, Damarius Johnson, Nicholas B. Breyfogle, Steven Conn, 2024-11-12 A groundbreaking collection of photographs and essays that shed new light on the history of Black America, from the Picturing Black History project. "An astonishing work. —Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Picturing Black History uncovers untold stories and rarely seen images of the Black experience, providing new context around culturally significant moments. This beautiful collectible volume makes a thoughtful gift and is full of rousing, vibrant essays paired with rarely seen photographs that expand our understanding of Black history. The book is a collaborative effort between Getty Images, *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, and the History departments at The Ohio State and Miami Universities. It informs, educates, and inspires our current moment by exploring the past, blending the breadth and depth of Getty Images's archives with the renowned expertise of *Origins* contributors and The Ohio State's and Miami's History departments, including Daniela Edmeier, Damarius Johnson, Nicholas Breyfogle, and Steve Conn. Created by a growing collective of professional historians, art historians, Black Studies scholars, and photographers and showcasing Getty Images's unmatched collection of photographs, Picturing Black History embraces the power of visual storytelling to relay little-known stories of oppression and resistance, perseverance and resilience, freedom, dreams, imagination, and joy within the United States and around the world. In collecting these new photographic essays, this book furthers an ongoing dialogue on the significance of Black history and Black life, sharing new perspectives on the current status of prejudice and discrimination bias with a wider audience. Picturing Black History uses the latest academic learning and scholarship to recontextualize and dispel prejudices, while uncovering, digitizing, and preserving new archival materials to amplify a more inclusive visual landscape. Picturing Black History offers a trove of both famous and unseen photos with brief, poignant accompanying essays to show not only the centrality of Black people to American history but also how African Americans used the photographer's lens to tell their own stories. The editors, authors, and Getty images have created a beautiful book that stands on its own as a work of art, a veritable museum in print." —Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

african american history images: Envisioning Emancipation Deborah Willis, Barbara Krauthamer, 2013 What freedom looked like for black Americans in the Civil War era

african american history images: Images Eileen J. Southern, Josephine Wright, 2019-01-04 This lavishly illustrated book brings together for the first time a significant body of imagery devoted to the traditional culture of the African-American slave.

african american history images: Visualizing Equality Aston Gonzalez, 2020-07-20 The fight for racial equality in the nineteenth century played out not only in marches and political conventions but also in the print and visual culture created and disseminated throughout the United States by African Americans. Advances in visual technologies--daguerreotypes, lithographs, cartes de visite, and steam printing presses--enabled people to see and participate in social reform movements in new ways. African American activists seized these opportunities and produced images that advanced campaigns for black rights. In this book, Aston Gonzalez charts the changing roles of African American visual artists as they helped build the world they envisioned. Understudied artists such as Robert Douglass Jr., Patrick Henry Reason, James Presley Ball, and Augustus Washington produced images to persuade viewers of the necessity for racial equality, black political leadership, and freedom from slavery. Moreover, these activist artists' networks of transatlantic patronage and travels to Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa reveal their extensive involvement in the most pressing concerns for black people in the Atlantic world. Their work demonstrates how images became central to the ways that people developed ideas about race, citizenship, and politics during the

nineteenth century.

african american history images: *Make Good the Promises* Kinshasha Holman Conwill, Paul Gardullo, 2021-09-14 The companion volume to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture exhibit, opening in September 2021 With a Foreword by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Eric Foner and a preface by veteran museum director and historian Spencer Crew An incisive and illuminating analysis of the enduring legacy of the post-Civil War period known as Reconstruction—a comprehensive story of Black Americans' struggle for human rights and dignity and the failure of the nation to fulfill its promises of freedom, citizenship, and justice. In the aftermath of the Civil War, millions of free and newly freed African Americans were determined to define themselves as equal citizens in a country without slavery—to own land, build secure families, and educate themselves and their children. Seeking to secure safety and justice, they successfully campaigned for civil and political rights, including the right to vote. Across an expanding America, Black politicians were elected to all levels of government, from city halls to state capitals to Washington, DC. But those gains were short-lived. By the mid-1870s, the federal government stopped enforcing civil rights laws, allowing white supremacists to use suppression and violence to regain power in the Southern states. Black men, women, and children suffered racial terror, segregation, and discrimination that confined them to second-class citizenship, a system known as Jim Crow that endured for decades. More than a century has passed since the revolutionary political, social, and economic movement known as Reconstruction, yet its profound consequences reverberate in our lives today. *Make Good the Promises* explores five distinct yet intertwined legacies of Reconstruction—Liberation, Violence, Repair, Place, and Belief—to reveal their lasting impact on modern society. It is the story of Frederick Douglass, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Hiram Revels, Ida B. Wells, and scores of other Black men and women who reshaped a nation—and of the persistence of white supremacy and the perpetuation of the injustices of slavery continued by other means and codified in state and federal laws. With contributions by leading scholars, and illustrated with 80 images from the exhibition, *Make Good the Promises* shows how Black Lives Matter, #SayHerName, antiracism, and other current movements for repair find inspiration from the lessons of Reconstruction. It touches on questions critical then and now: What is the meaning of freedom and equality? What does it mean to be an American? Powerful and eye-opening, it is a reminder that history is far from past; it lives within each of us and shapes our world and who we are.

african american history images: *African American Women* National Museum National Museum of African American History and Culture, 2015 The third in a major new series of books based on the remarkable NMAAHC photography archive.

african american history images: *1919, The Year of Racial Violence* David F. Krugler, 2014-12-08 1919, The Year of Racial Violence recounts African Americans' brave stand against a cascade of mob attacks in the United States after World War I. The emerging New Negro identity, which prized unflinching resistance to second-class citizenship, further inspired veterans and their fellow black citizens. In city after city - Washington, DC; Chicago; Charleston; and elsewhere - black men and women took up arms to repel mobs that used lynching, assaults, and other forms of violence to protect white supremacy; yet, authorities blamed blacks for the violence, leading to mass arrests and misleading news coverage. Refusing to yield, African Americans sought accuracy and fairness in the courts of public opinion and the law. This is the first account of this three-front fight - in the streets, in the press, and in the courts - against mob violence during one of the worst years of racial conflict in US history.

african american history images: *Ain't I A Woman?* Sojourner Truth, 2020-09-24 'I am a woman's rights. I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that? I am as strong as any man that is now' A former slave and one of the most powerful orators of her time, Sojourner Truth fought for the equal rights of Black women throughout her life. This selection of her impassioned speeches is accompanied by the words of other inspiring African-American female campaigners from the nineteenth century. One of twenty new books in the

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deeply entrenched dynamics, patterns as old as the country itself. The January 6 insurrection, anti-immigrant sentiment, and American authoritarianism all have historic roots that explain their continued power with or without President Donald Trump—a fact borne out by what has happened since his departure from the White House. Serwer argues that Trump is not the cause, he is a symptom. Serwer's phrase "the cruelty is the point" became among the most-used descriptions of Trump's era, but as this book demonstrates, it resonates across centuries. The essays here combine revelatory reporting, searing analysis, and a clarity that's bracing. In this new, expanded version of his bestselling debut, Serwer elegantly dissects white supremacy's profound influence on our political system, looking at the persistence of the Lost Cause, the past and present of police unions, the mythology of migration, and the many faces of anti-Semitism. In so doing, he offers abundant proof that our past is present and demonstrates the devastating costs of continuing to pretend it's not. *The Cruelty Is the Point* dares us, the reader, to not look away.

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