

ALLEN PIERRE
LOVE IN THE STREETS

This catalogue coincides with *Love in the Streets: Photographs by Allen Pierre*, an exhibition organized by the Kingsborough Art Museum at Kingsborough Community College, CUNY. The exhibition was on view from October 11—November 8, 2017.

Kingsborough Art Museum

The City University of New York

Brian E. Hack, Director

John Descarfino, Art Department Chair

www.kccartmuseum.org

Catalogue Design: Brian E. Hack

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Acknowledgements

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Cover: Allen Pierre, *Women Now*, Chromogenic Print, 2016.

LOVE IN THE STREETS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALLEN PIERRE

KAM
KINGSBOROUGH ART MUSEUM

Director's Welcome

On behalf of the Kingsborough Art Museum, I welcome you to *Love in the Streets: Photographs by Allen Pierre*. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Allen Pierre came to the United States in 2002, where he would later attend Kingsborough Community College and Brooklyn College. He is primarily a street photographer, although much of his work cannot be tautly tethered to that somewhat limited term. While street photographers are generally perceived as urban *flâneurs*, or strolling recorders of modern life, Pierre often interacts with his subjects, relaxing them in a manner that allows their true inner and outer beauty to reveal itself before his lens.

By photographing many of his subjects against the open sky, Pierre creates *street portraiture*, elevating the standard parameters of the genre. While captured spontaneously at

Brooklyn festivals such as *Afropunk* and *Photoville*, his photographs paradoxically exude an idealized glamour, a stylish nobility one might expect from more formal studio portraits.

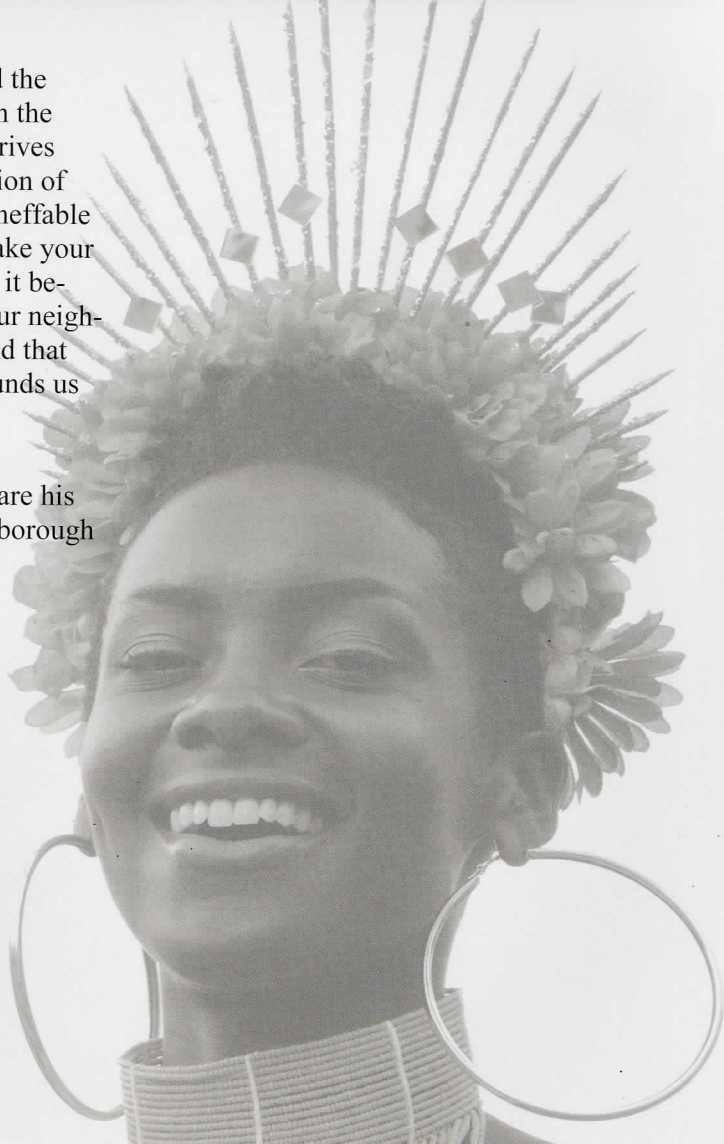
In other photographs, we see the streets of Brooklyn, Harlem, and Midtown Manhattan through the photographer's nuanced, poetic vision, a sympathetic unveiling of the little details, the momentary dramas, that many New Yorkers briskly stride by without a nanosecond of thought. While his work is certainly aesthetically powerful, it also evokes that most human of emotions, *empathy*—compelling us to identify with, and to imagine narratives about, his subjects and the situations in which they find themselves. This exhibition—his first—truly is about the joy, dignity, strength, and love that Pierre sees every day in the faces and lives of those he meets.

Free of cynicism, Allen Pierre's photographs convey the love he feels for his city and for those within it. Revealing

the wonder of existence and the deepest truths nestled within the simplest moments, Pierre strives towards that highest aspiration of art: to evoke within us the ineffable beauty of being. As you make your way through the exhibition, it becomes clear that these are our neighbors, our neighborhoods, and that the beauty he records surrounds us all, daily.

It is our great pleasure to share his photographs with the Kingsborough community.

Brian E. Hack, Ph.D.
Director
Kingsborough Art Museum





Allen Pierre
Boldly Bald, Brooklyn
Chromogenic Print
18.5 x 12.4 inches
2016

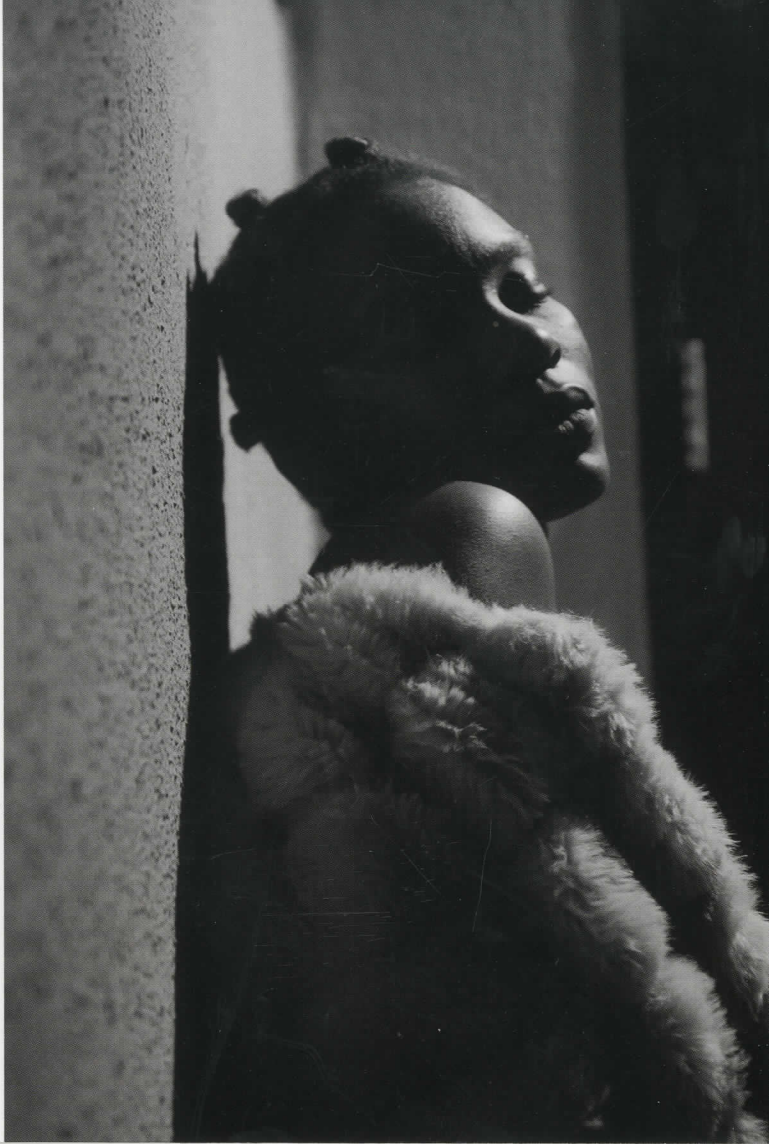
Allen Pierre

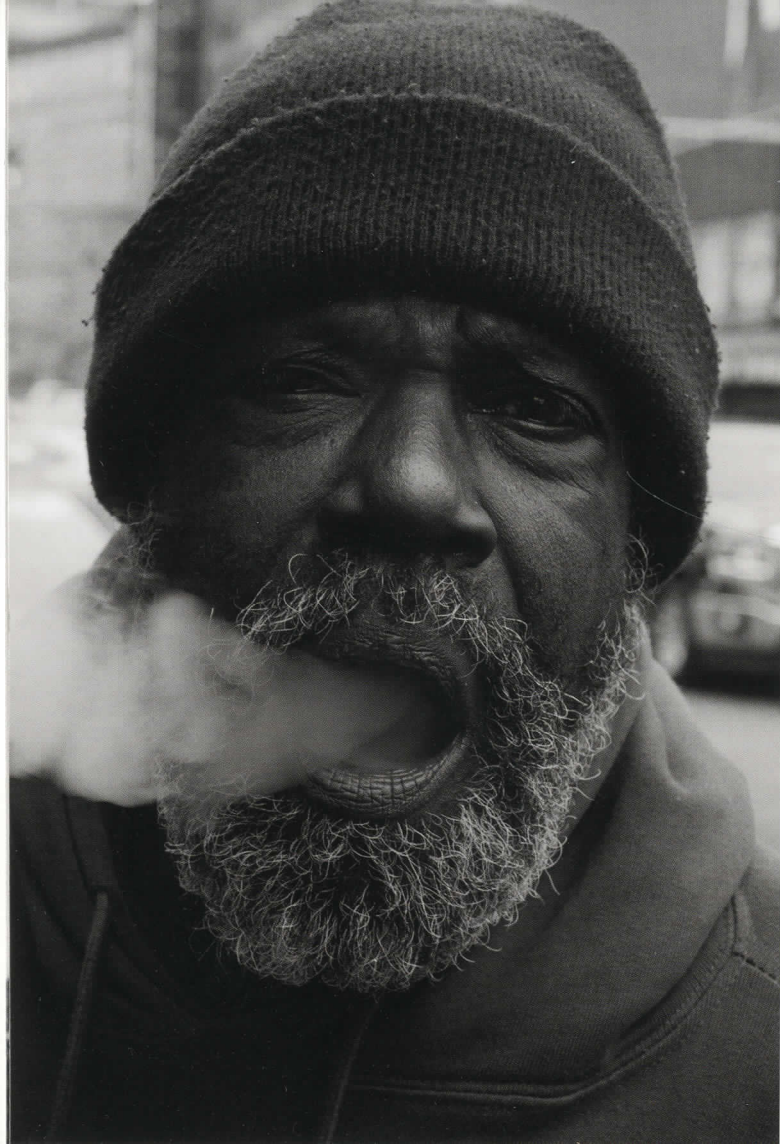
Moonlight, Brooklyn

Chromogenic Print

18 x 12 inches

2015





Allen Pierre
Canal Street, New York
Chromogenic Print
18 x 12 inches
2017

Allen Pierre

Moon, Brooklyn

Chromogenic Print

18.5 x 12.4 inches

2016







Allen Pierre
Circle of Women,
Brooklyn
Chromogenic Print
12 x 18 inches
2016

Exhibition Checklist

1

Harlem Fro, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
12 x 18.9 inches
2016

2

Moonlight, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
18.8 x 12.8 inches
2015

3

Canal Street, New York

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2017

4

***A Woman's Strength,
Brownsville, Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2016

5

***Love Miles Away,
Coney Island Brooklyn***

12 x 18 inches
Chromogenic print
2016

6

Brownsville, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
12 x 18 inches
2016

7

***Curlfest, Prospect Park,
Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2016

8

Circle of Women, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
12 x 18 inches
2016

9

***Curlfest, Prospect Park,
Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print
18.5 x 12.4 inches
2016

10

Moon, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
18.5 x 12.4 inches
2016

11

Boldly Bald, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
18.5 x 12.4 inches
2016

12

Smile, Harlem

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2015

13

Ineffable, New York

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2016

14

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2016

15

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print
18 x 12 inches
2016

16

***Black Boys, West Indian
Parade, Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print
12.7 x 19 inches
2016

17

Freed, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 19 inches

2016

18

Angel, New York

Chromogenic print

19 x 12 inches

2016

19

***Solitude, Coney Island,
Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print

12 x 19 inches

2017

20

Knowledge, New York

Chromogenic print

19 x 12"

2017

21

A Joy Ride, Harlem

Chromogenic print

12.8 x 18 inches

2017

22

Muscle Beach, Harlem

Chromogenic print

19 x 12.1 inches

2017

23

***Curlfest, Prospect Park,
Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print

19 x 12.1 inches

2017

24

Trying to Live, New York

Chromogenic print

19 x 12 inches

2017

25

Create, Harlem, New York

Chromogenic print

12 x 19 inches

2017

26

Boombox, Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

8 x 12.2 inches

2017

27

Poised, Red Hook, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2015

28

Women Now, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

29

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

30

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

31

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

32

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

33

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

34

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12 x 8 inches

2016

35

Commute, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

8 x 12.6 inches

2016

36

Photoville, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12.5 x 8 inches

2016

37

Summerdaze, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

8 x 12.8 inches

2016

38

New York, NY

Chromogenic print

12 x 8.1 inches

2016

39

New York, NY

Chromogenic print

8 x 12.9 inches

2017

40

New York, NY

Chromogenic print

9.3 x 12.4 inches

2017

41

New York, NY

Chromogenic print

8 x 12.4 inches

2017

42

Protect, Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

8.8 x 12.4 inches

2017

43

Afropunk, Brooklyn

Chromogenic print

12.4 x 8 inches

2017

44

***L'Union Fait La Force,
West Indian Parade, Brooklyn***

Chromogenic print

12.4 x 8 inches

2017

Artist's Statement

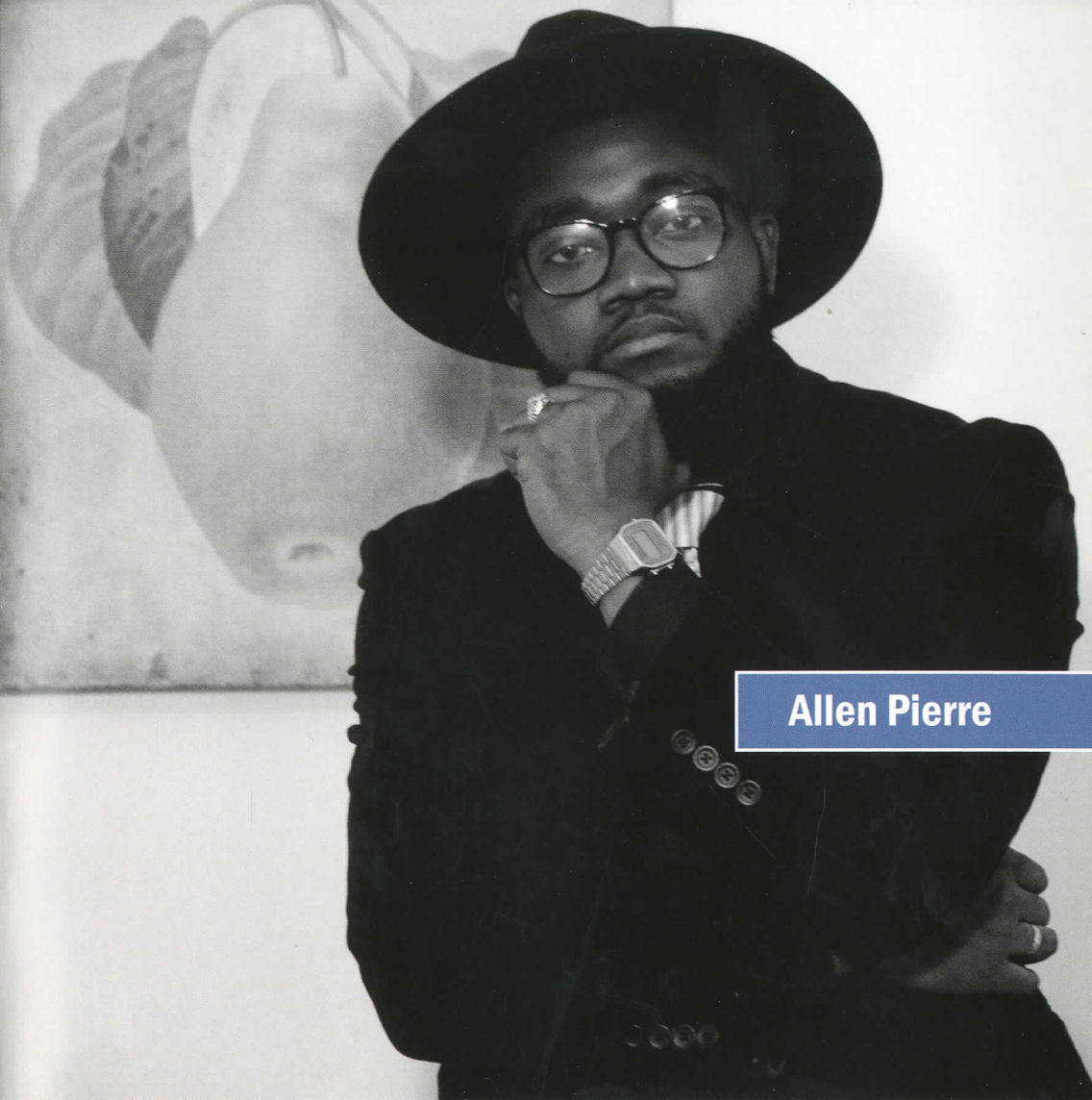
I was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a place I called home until December of 2002. I am a photographer currently living in East Flatbush, Brooklyn; it was here that I cultivated a love for street photography, and for capturing the poetic moments of the city in black and white. Through my lens I seek to restore a very human substance to photography by isolating the subject, and by inviting the audience to follow a story without the distraction of color.

My hope is to implore the humanity of my subjects, not their aesthetic; by creating a non-verbal dialogue with viewers, I suggest that it's not necessarily about the subjects themselves, but rather about the conditions in which they exist. My themes tend to consist of laughter, sadness, couples kissing, and nuanced moments loaded with emotion—all of which are rooted in love, because without love there

would be no emotion, for even pain comes from love.

The overall goal in my work is to capture photos do not require captions but rather carry their respective stories within their details. Photography tends to be centered around being *avant-garde*, and in looking towards the future a lot of photographers miss the moments I hope to capture today—because tomorrow will be filled with its own unique chances. I aim to find the perfect balance between having an unlimited scope while giving agency and preference to those whose stories are rarely told, whose lives are solemnly immortalized.

Allen Pierre
2017



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