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A CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY ON AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE IN THE 1960S IS REISSUED

LOS ANGELES—The election of Barack Obama in November 2008 was thought by many to be the start of a “post-racial” America, but the scars of our racially divided history have not yet faded. Photojournalist Leonard Freed’s book-length photo essay, *Black in White America* (Getty Publications, \$29.95, paperback), is an intimate look at African American life in the 1960s from urban North to rural South. Originally published in 1968, these photographs capture everything from the 1963 March on Washington and evidence of segregation to celebratory moments, including a black beauty pageant and children playing in the spray of a fire hydrant.

The son of Eastern European Jews, Freed became interested in examining the cultural fabric of African American life after working as a freelance photographer in Berlin in the early 1960s and witnessing black soldiers protecting freedom abroad while their brothers and sisters were fighting for civil rights at home. In June 1963, he headed back to the U.S. to embark on this multiyear documentary project, which became the signature of his career. Freed began by photographing the African American neighborhoods around New York City, then bought a car and traveled through the South. He became a pioneer in the genre of socially conscious photojournalism.

The photographs in *Black in White America* are accompanied by personal interviews and journal entries, lyrics of Negro spirituals and protest songs, as well as an excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech. Taken as a whole, the book conveys human dignity in the midst of the struggle for racial equality.

About the Author

Leonard Freed was born in Brooklyn, New York, and began taking photographs in 1953 while living in the Netherlands. He traveled the world on assignment for the international press and

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published at least thirteen books. His photographs are included in the collections of the International Center of Photography and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Publication Information

Black in White America

Leonard Freed

J. Paul Getty Museum

216 pages, 8 ¾ x 10 inches, paperback

208 duotone illustrations

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