

Black History Month

Exhibit Celebrates Black History Month



Kenneth McFadden's "Just Hanging Out." (2004)

Black photographers interpret love

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In celebration of Black History Month, Nordstrom has selected a talented group of African-American photographers to share their ideas about love, captured on film in an exhibit called "Love Now." The exhibit will be displayed in the Lloyd Center Nordstrom store throughout the entire month of February.

In its third year running, the exhibit is a public tribute to the artistic expression of black photographers, and will feature 23 photographers from across the United States and one from Switzerland.

"We are honored to celebrate Black History Month with the 'Love Now' exhibit," said Delena Sunday, Nordstrom executive vice president of human resources and diversity affairs. "This unique exhibit is a thought-provoking journey into the way love inspires and illuminates moments in life. We are fortunate to share the work of these renowned, up and coming artists with our customers."

Jorge Valis of Nordstrom corporate communications, said the goal was for each photographer to showcase their own personal interpretation of love in our current times - for some that interpretation may have a connection to civil rights, for others it may mean family, romance or community.

"By allowing for a range of different interpretations, we are able to highlight not only the talent of these photographers, but the diverse range of their style in terms of image, composition and subject," Valis said.

Kenneth McFadden, a photographer from Seattle will have his 2004 piece "Just Hanging Out" featured in the exhibit. McFadden said that photography gives him an emotional release that has allowed him to grow in other areas of his life.



David Ogburn's "Bohari's Barbershop." (1970)

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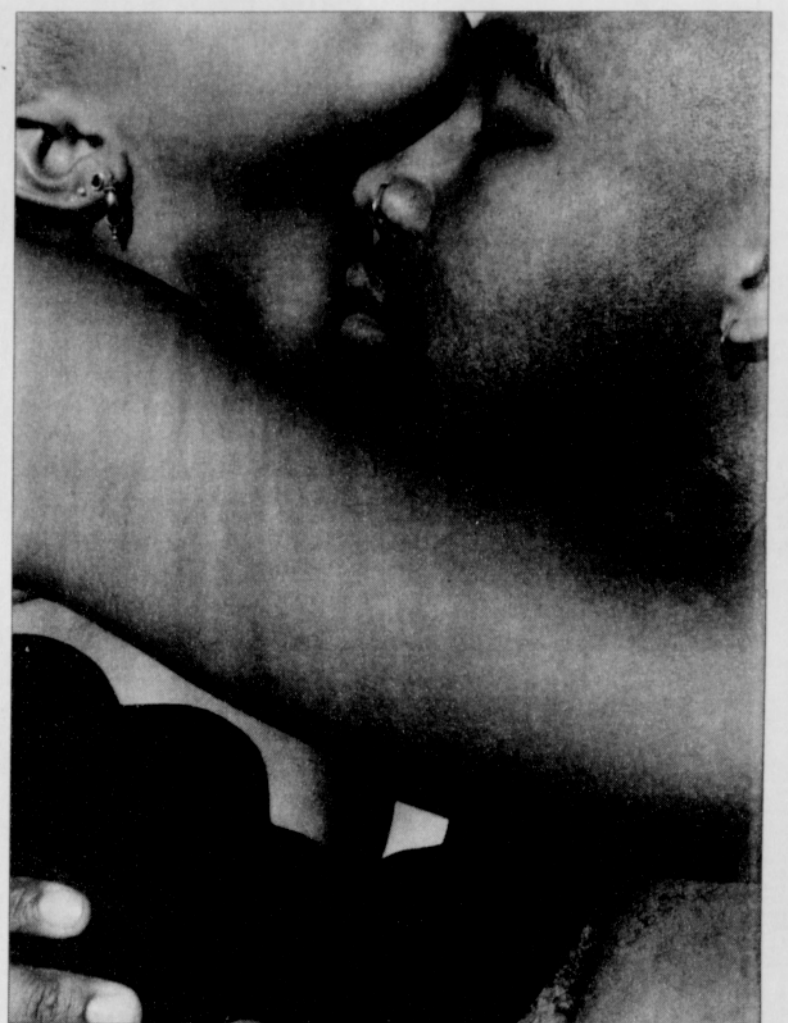
—Delena Sunday, Nordstrom executive vice president

Nicole Mayhorn's 1995 work, "Love," is one of many in a collection of photos created that capture the spirit of the subject perfectly. Mayhorn's work is internationally known and has been exhibited in galleries in Washington, D.C., and London. She specializes in commissioned portraits, which allows her to form a connection with her subjects and to have the ability to bring out their true colors.

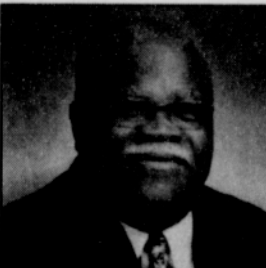
While David "Oggi" Ogburn specializes in chronicling the human side of music industry with a subtle eye, his photo from 1970 called "Bohari's Barbershop" takes a peak at an uncomfortable child's haircut. Ogburn's photos have been featured at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the Center for African American History and Culture and the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Valis said the placement of the photos are such that they are blown up and fit on large panel fixtures on the main floor of the store, along with information about the photographer. Depending on the layout of the store, the panels are lined down one of the main aisles, or grouped around the escalator well in the middle of the floor.

"We've heard from many of our customers that are pleased to come to our store and discover the work of professional African-American photographers, many of whom they otherwise might not have been familiar with," Valis said. "This was always the intent behind the exhibit, so we are truly pleased to get that feedback."



Nicole Mayhorn's "Love." (1995)



The Face of the Federal Budget

By Reg Weaver, President, National Education Association

It's budget time again in Washington, with bureaucrats and pundits talking about millions and billions of dollars with glib sound bites and snap judgments about what it all means.

What they don't talk about is how people's lives are affected — all from the alteration of a single number in a single column in those reams of paper.


As educators, who work in publicly funded schools every day, we know too well how those columns can change the lives of the children we teach. The change of a five to a zero can mean even more students in an already-crowded classroom, or another year with the same 10-year-old textbooks. It can mean that a much needed reading aide won't be around next semester or that the weekly music class is cancelled.

The 2.7 million members of the National Education Association are forced to deal with those changes every year. For the past few years, it hasn't been easy. Every day I hear from teachers and school employees all over the country about how those seemingly harmless numbers end up hurting the children they care about so much.

I know that this doesn't sound like the same budget we have been hearing about this week in the news. The Administration will argue that education wasn't cut as much as other domestic issues, but the level of requirements won't be reduced either. Is this really the standard we should have for America's most important resource?

As the budget debate continues, teachers, school employees and parents want policymakers to remember this: It's not just how much federal money is invested in our schools, but how it is invested.

For America to succeed in the future, we must invest in children today. That means putting resources in the classroom. That's where children learn.



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Celebrating Black History Month



Maggie Lena Walker
(1867-1934)

In February we recognize America's many great black pioneers and leaders.

Maggie Lena Walker was the first black woman to be a bank president. She founded the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia, in 1903. The bank began as an insurance society in which Walker became active at the time of her marriage in 1886. When she retired because of ill-health in 1933, the bank was strong enough to survive the Depression, and is still in existence.



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