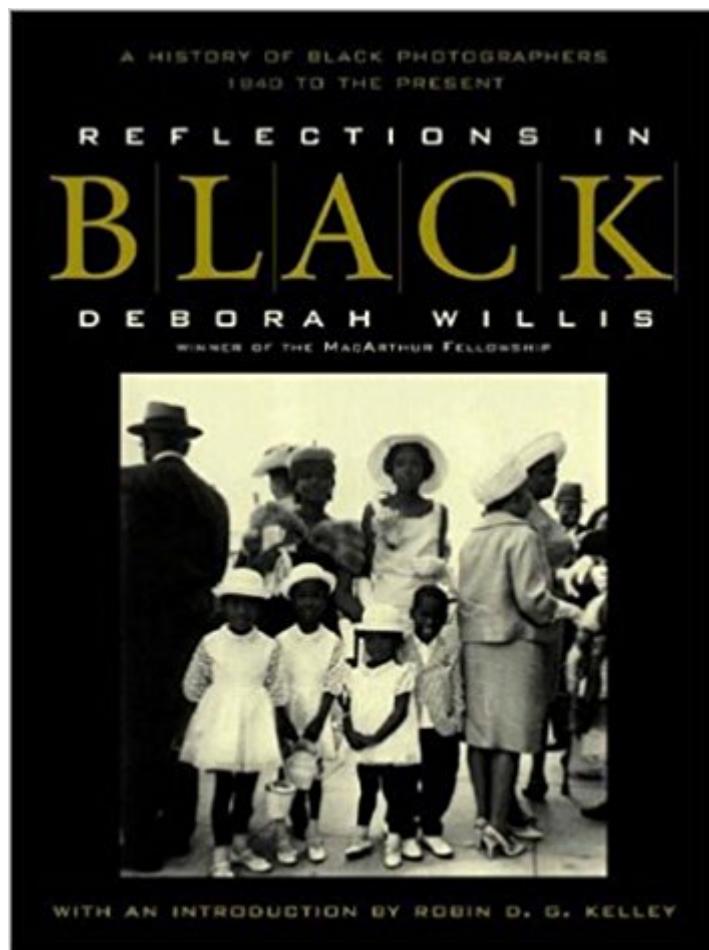


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# Reflections In Black: A History Of Black Photographers 1840 To The Present



## Synopsis

"[N]othing less than an epic of Homeric proportions....Willis's magnificent gathering of images...rewrites American history." — Robin D. G. Kelley

Reflections in Black, the first comprehensive history of black photographers, is a groundbreaking pictorial collection of African American life. Featuring the work of undisputed masters such as James VanDerZee, Gordon Parks, and Carrie Mae Weems among dozens of others, this book is a refutation of the gross caricature of black life that many mainstream photographers have manifested by continually emphasizing poverty over family, despair over hope. Nearly 600 images offer rich, moving glimpses of everyday black life, from slavery to the Great Migration to contemporary suburban life, including rare antebellum daguerrotypes, photojournalism of the civil rights era, and multimedia portraits of middle-class families. A work so significant that it has the power to reconfigure our conception of American history itself, Reflections in Black demands to be included in every American family's library as an essential part of our heritage. A Los Angeles Times and Washington Post Book World Best Book of 2000, and a Good Morning, America best gift book of 2000. 600 duotone photographs, 32 pages of color.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Willis (curator, Smithsonian's Center for African American History and Culture) continues enlightening the public about visual representations of African American experiences, work that just won her a MacArthur genius grant. This catalog of a Smithsonian exhibit that will tour America

starting this summer should be read in conjunction with her other books on the subject: Black Photographers, 1840\$1940: An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography (New Pr., 1992), VanDerZee, Photographer, 1886\$1983 (LJ 11/15/93), and Picturing Us: African American Identity in Photography (LJ 12/94). In this more comprehensive book, Willis alternates chronological sections of photographs with essays that discuss the individual photographers and the scope of their work. They range from men and women who operated photography studios and made dignified portraits of the people in their communities, to photojournalists documenting social change, to contemporary artists making creative statements with digital montage techniques. This book certainly should be selected for African American or photography collections, but it could alternatively be put in general American history or social history."Anne Marie Lane, Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Take the time to examine these faces. Make the time to treasure this book. -- BET.com, Barbara Summers[N]othing less than an epic of Homeric proportions....Willis's magnificent gathering of images...rewrites American history. -- Robin D. G. Kelley

The book arrived promptly and in good condition. It is filled with beautiful photos and great information. My only suggestion is that books should be placed in plastic to protect them from inclement weather. If the mail carrier had not wrung my bell and just left the package in the snow (as some have in the past), I expect there might have been water damage.

The book of photographs is amazing and so vivid. Each picture with script captures a significant moment in time in African-American history. Reflections in Black is a very good book to have as a library collection.

I am obsessed with black history and am a visual person, so this book was nothing short of amazing for me! I loved looking at the pictures and how the author sectioned them off according to time periods. It was very enlightening and I had a blast reading it! I ended up giving it to a friend of mine who is a photographer and she LOVED IT! thanks so much for a great read!

To me it was beautiful. I was once those little girls in my Sunday finery. The ordinary folk are my kind of folk. There are pictures of "stars" also, but I did not know them then and do not know them now. How refreshing and yet nostalgic for me.

black background for very dark or black pictures probably seemed artistic in theory, but really washed out the photographs.

Given as a gift to a dear shutter-bug friend who loved loved loved period pictures and subjects.

The pictures were fascinating and the narrative regarding the history was well done. It is a book I will treasure and I do hope to purchase more of her work.

Excellent book of history.

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