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## **"Chronicles of Our Culture"**

Photographs by John Simmons, ASC

**November 5 – 27, 2021**

**Opening Reception:** Saturday, November 6th | 6-9pm

**Artist Talk:** Saturday, November 20th | 1pm

Curated by Eric Murphy

**Where: Joyce Gordon Gallery**

406 14th Street Oakland, CA. 94612 (12<sup>th</sup> St. Bart)

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Joyce Gordon Gallery presents "**Chronicles of Our Culture**," a traveling exhibitions of photographs by Emmy Award-Winner, John Simmons. The exhibit is an American timeline of Black Culture from the 60s; "It's a visual diary of where I've been and who I am." - John Simmons, ASC.

Time doesn't stand still but memories are not forgotten in this series of photographs chronicling various moments of Black Culture in America from the 1960s to the present day. A visual archivist since the 1960s, Simmons has produced captivating photographs that present the beauty, complexities, challenges, and intimate moments of black life and the broader world around him. This exhibit tells a chronicle of Black culture's beauty and

reality. Some highlights include portraits of prominent leaders of the Civil Rights Movement including Jesse Jackson, a free Huey Newton demonstration “Free Huey” (Chicago, Ill., 1968), Angela Davis Nashville, TN (circa 1970), Rosa Parks. Other portraits include “Girl Eating Ice Cream” (Chicago, Ill., 1967) and Boy Running (Oakland, CA 2017).

John Simmons, ASC is an Emmy award-winning cinematographer, photographer, painter, collage artist and professor. Born and raised in Chicago, John Simmons came of age at the height of the politically charged, artistically fluent 1960s. His talent as a photographer was identified and nurtured by Robert “Bobby” Sengstacke who ushered him into his early years of publishing his photographs and to his formal education in art and photography as an undergraduate.

“I began my career at the age of 16 as a photographer for the oldest African-American owned newspaper, The Chicago Daily Defender,” Simmons said. “Then, I segued into work as a Cinematographer, which has been my mainstay for many years. I’m glad to see photographs I took back in my teens are still relevant today.”

John Simmons, ASC has had a prolific career as both a still photographer and cinematographer. He has filmed numerous music videos and commercials for artists such as Stevie Wonder, Britney Spears, Snoop Dogg and many more. He has collaborated with filmmakers including Spike Lee and Debbie Allen, and has served as the Director of Photography for more than 25 television series. Simmons earned an Emmy for his work on Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn, another two nominations for his work on Pair of Kings, and a third for Family Reunion. His feature film credits include Once Upon a Time ... When We Were Colored, The Killing Yard, Collected Stories, The Gin Game, Asunder, The Old Settler. His numerous documentaries include Richard Pryor, Here & Now (1983) to this year's Emmy Award winning Hollywood's Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story (2020).

His photographs are held in the collections of the J. Paul Getty Museum and another collection-the Wesley and Missy Cochran Foundation other current exhibits: (Getty Museum) should be In Focus: Protest, the J. Paul Getty Museum June 29-October 10,2021) Capturing Beauty: The Artwork and Photography of John Simmons (June 5 - extended through October 31, 2021)

**Joyce Gordon Gallery** is a commercial fine art gallery located in the downtown district of Oakland, California. It exhibits art that reflects the social and cultural diversity of the Bay Area and international artists. The aim of the gallery is to respect the creative pursuits of the individual and seeks to make such work accessible to a broad audience. IG/FB @Joycegordongallery <http://www.joycegordongallery.com/>