



Visions of Night: Baltimore Nocturnes Opens April 29

BALTIMORE, Md. (April 26, 2022) – The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) is pleased to unveil *Visions of Night: Baltimore Nocturnes*, an exhibition that showcases night photography from MCHC’s collections, as well as contemporary artists. Opening April 29, the exhibition features work from contemporary photographers Sydney J. Allen, J.M. Giordano, John Clark Mayden, Webster Phillips III, and others.

Photographers have long attempted to capture images at night, but truly successful attempts did not come to fruition until the 1930s, when technology caught up with artistic vision. *Visions of Night* juxtaposes past and present as visitors immerse themselves in different eras of the Baltimore night scene and observe the evolution of photographic techniques.

“Night photography is an aspect of art that is always captivating. Clothing and hairstyles may change, cityscapes may be altered, but the mystery of darkness is a constant,” said Joe Tropea, MCHC Curator of Films & Photographs. “I imagine *Visions of Night* as a chance for artists of today to hold a conversation with artists from the past, in the dark.”

FEATURED CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS:

Sydney J. Allen, aka a Baltimore griot, is a visual storyteller who is both a native and current resident of Baltimore. Allen is known for her work in portrait and documentary photography where the artist highlights the individuals and community spaces of black folk living in Baltimore.

J.M. Giordano is an award-winning Baltimore-based photojournalist. Giordano’s book, *We Used to Live at Night*, chronicles over two decades of the city’s nightlife. His work has been featured on various news outlets, including NPR, ProPublica, Al-Jazeera, GQ, Architectural Digest, Taste, Observer, New Review, Sunday Magazine, Guardian, Telegraph, Daily Mail, Washington Post, Baltimore City Paper, i-D Magazine, Discovery Channel Inc., and Rolling Stone.

John Clark Mayden is a photographer, author, and attorney. In 2019, he authored *Baltimore Lives: The Portraits of John Clark Mayden*, his collected photographic works of African Americans in Baltimore Street scenes between 1970 and 2012. Mayden also began photographing urban landscapes and people in 1970. His photographs have been exhibited at the Baltimore Museum of Art, Walters Art Museum, University of Pennsylvania’s Sharp Gallery, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Webster Phillips III is maintaining the photojournalist tradition of his father, Irving H. Phillips Jr. (Baltimore Sun), and grandfather I. Henry Phillips Sr. (Afro-American), producing an artistic, and graphic body of work about the Baltimore of his generation. His work has been featured at the Reginald Lewis Museum, Creative Alliance, and the Eubie Blake Center. His work also includes making The I. Henry Collection available online and accessible for educational purposes.

Support for this exhibition is generously provided by William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios, <http://www.BakerArtist.org>.

View a selection of [images from the exhibition here](#).

UPCOMING EXHIBITION PROGRAM: ARTIST MINGLE, APRIL 30, 2-3:30 P.M.

Meet artists Sydney J. Allen, Webster Phillips III, John Clarke Mayden, along with Joe Tropea, MCHC Curator of Films & Photographs, for a visual exploration of *Visions of Night*, followed by mingling and dialogue.

Schedule

- **2-3 pm** – Visual exploration with the artists
- **3–3:30 pm** – Mingle and questions

Registration is strongly encouraged.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO VIEW THE EXHIBITION

Visions of Night is on view through April 2023 and can be visited Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Media can schedule an appointment for a private exhibition walk-through by contacting Jennifer Michael, Communications & Marketing Director, at aweiss@mdhistory.org.

ABOUT THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) collects, preserves, and interprets the history, art, and culture of Maryland. Originally founded as the Maryland Historical Society in 1844, MCHC inspires critical thinking, creativity, and community through its Museum, Library, and education programs. The Museum and H. Furlong Baldwin Library are currently open Wednesday-Saturday. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Library hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn more at mdhistory.org, including MCHC's safety procedures.

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