

KEITH DE LELLIS
GALLERY

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Keith de Lellis
(212) 327-1482
keith@keithdelellisgallery.com

BEUFORD SMITH
A RETROSPECTIVE OF COMMUNITY, WITNESS, AND HISTORY
FEBRUARY 11TH - MARCH 12TH, 2026

A powerful retrospective exhibition of photographs by acclaimed African American photographer Beuford Smith will present an intimate and historic portrait of African American life, community, and resilience. Spanning decades of work, the exhibition brings together Smith's enduring images of everyday life alongside his extraordinary photographic reportage captured on the streets of Harlem on the day of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

Rooted in trust, proximity, and deep cultural knowledge, Beuford Smith's photographs chronicle the lived experiences of African Americans with uncommon dignity and emotional clarity. His work moves fluidly between the ordinary and the historic—family gatherings, street scenes, moments of joy and struggle—revealing a community seen from within rather than observed from a distance.

At the heart of the exhibition is a rare and moving series taken on April 4, 1968, as news of Dr. King's assassination reverberated through Harlem. Smith's camera bears witness to the raw emotions of that day—grief, anger, disbelief, and solidarity—capturing a community in collective mourning and reflection. These images stand as both historical documents and deeply human records of a pivotal moment in American history.

Together, the retrospective underscores Smith's role not only as an artist, but as a visual historian whose work preserves memory, affirms identity, and confronts injustice through presence and truth. His photographs remind viewers that history is lived on the streets, in faces, and in shared moments of reckoning.