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IMAJINNATION.NET PRESENTS MUGFILES

Photographer Djinn Carl Lewis' Faces of the Famous, the Infamous and the Not-so Famous

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imajinnation.net, home of photographer Djinn Carl Lewis' images, presents Mug Files: Faces of the Famous, the Infamous and the Not-so Famous.

One of the facets of his work MugFiles is a visual record of the personalities he's met, and some he's befriended, over the course of 40 years.

Mr. Lewis' artistic "'walkabout" has allowed him to photograph a constellation of individuals from all walks of life. They are actors, mathematicians, scientists, musicians, dancers, activists, designers, politicians, teachers. Some have legendary names like Jesse Jackson, Robert Rauschenberg, Pinetop Perkins, I.M. Pei, the 'Tap Dance Kid' Harold Nicholas, Gordon Parks, First Hemp Bank's David Clancy, Gil Evans, the Wailers, John Phillips of Federal Schedule I, Jorge Santana and Abel Sanchez, and the personalities behind the personae are revealed through intimate slices from the wings and powerful moments on life's stage.

"I've been fortunate to have been a lot of places as 'the fly-on-the-wall'. I kinda tune my energy down to make myself invisible.", says Carl, "Then I ninja-up on my subject and wait for the Cartier-Bresson 'decisive moment'. I still think like a film shooter with each frame being 'precious'."

Djinn's body of work spans the gamut of subjects, literal urban tableaus and allegorical vignettes to abstracts and gestural figuratives. Based upon information from MIT's Museum, the Creative Center for Photography and Britain's Royal Photographic Society, 2017 sees him as the only photographer known to have captured 20x40 foot, live laser images with an analog camera and slow film.

Images from the MugFiles were part of the Curriculum Guide for the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution. His work is referenced in <u>Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers 1840-Present</u> by Dr. Deb Willis, represented in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Amon Carter Museum and Texas Instruments.

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