



# **Guide to the Sheila Pree Bright collection, 2013-2023**

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Sheila Pree Bright collection, 2013-2023

**Creator:**

Bright, Sheila Pree

**Source:**

Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

**Abstract:**

Sheila Pree Bright is an award-winning photographic artist based in Atlanta, Georgia. The collection contains 50 digital archival prints and gelatin silver prints, each approximately 32x32 inches, for the #1960Now project that were later published in a book with the same name. The project includes associated materials such as a copy of the book and model version; event flyers; personal notes; digital files; a t-shirt with a button; and other assorted material. Also included are images of the wheat-pasted murals created by Bright depicting activists and other materials from the related project 1960What; images of George Floyd protests; materials for the project Mothers March On featuring mothers whose children were killed by police; and images related to the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Materials depict portraits of various activists, community organizations, Black Lives Matter, and people participating in protests and other events in several cities across the United States between 2013-2023. They cover subjects such as social justice and activism, civil rights, police brutality, racism and discrimination, protest, and grassroots organizing. Acquired by the Archive of Documentary Arts.

**Extent:**

15 Linear Feet

21 Gigabytes (572 files)

**Language:**

Materials in English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.13153

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m16b43>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Sheila Pree Bright collection, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

The Sheila Pree Bright collection contains materials related to several projects undertaken by Bright between 2013-2023. The collection includes 50 digital archival prints and gelatin silver prints, each approximately 32x32 inches, related to Bright's #1960Now (2018) project and book, which examines the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s alongside contemporary movements including Black Lives Matter. Materials for the #1960Now project include images featured in an exhibit at New York University and associated book materials, various event flyers, exhibition programs, personal notes, a t-shirt with a button, and other assorted physical materials. In addition, the collection contains various digital materials including image, video, and text files related to #1960Now, Bright's 1960What murals, George Floyd protests, Bright's Mothers March On project, and images related to the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (1965) in Selma, Alabama.

Materials in the collection feature portraits of activists and community organizations including Black Lives Matter; mothers of individuals killed by police; prominent individuals participating in anniversary and civil rights events including past presidents; and people at various protests, demonstrations, rallies, and meetings. Bright documented these events in several U.S. cities, including Atlanta, Ferguson, Baltimore, Detroit, Philadelphia, Baton Rouge, Selma, and Washington, D.C. Topics covered in the collection include social justice and activism, protest, civil rights, police brutality, racism and discrimination, and grassroots organizing.

### Biographical/Historical

Sheila Pree Bright is an award-winning photographic artist based in Atlanta, Georgia. Bright was born in 1967 in Waycross, Georgia and spent her early years in Germany. After returning to the United States, she completed her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri, moved to Atlanta, and earned her Master of Fine Arts at Georgia State University.

Alongside photography, she makes public art, murals, and documentary film, writes, and lectures on her work. Bright focuses on documenting the Black experience, particularly in the South and Atlanta, and creating stories intertwining social, political, and historical contexts. This has included the #1960Now project that features portraits of past and present civil rights

activists, and as well her photography documenting contemporary protest movements.

Throughout her career, Bright's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and collections such as the International Center of Photography Museum in New York, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, and more.

Sources:

Sheila Pree Bright website, "The Artist", <https://www.sheilapreebright.com/about> (accessed July 1, 2025).

Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South, "Sheila Pree Bright" <https://southboundproject.org/photographer/sheila-pree-bright/> (accessed July 1, 2025).

ArtsATL, "Sheila Pree Bright connects movements of the past and present in #1960Now" <https://www.artsatl.org/sheila-pree-bright-connects-movements-of-the-past-and-present-with-1960now/> (accessed July 2, 2025).

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## Arrangement

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Arranged into the following series: #1960Now; George Floyd Protests; Mothers March On

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## **Access Restrictions**

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

## **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

## **Acquisition Information**

The Sheila Pree Bright collection was received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2025.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Tere Elizalde, July 2025

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2025-0062

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Material**

Rice University, Sheila Pree Bright photographic portraits of Houston Hip Hop Artists, <https://archives.library.rice.edu/repositories/2/resources/1630>

Emory University, Sheila Pree Bright papers, <https://archives.libraries.emory.edu/repositories/7/resources/4724>

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Black lives matter movement

- Civil rights movements
- Community activists -- United States
- Civil rights demonstrations -- United States
- Police brutality -- United States
- Atlanta (Ga.) -- Social conditions
- Baltimore (Md.) -- Social conditions
- Baton Rouge (La.) -- Social conditions
- Detroit (Mich.) -- Social conditions
- Ferguson (Mo.) -- Social conditions
- Philadelphia (Pa.) -- Social conditions
- Washington (D.C.) -- Social conditions
- Digital prints
- Gelatin silver prints
- electronic records (digital records)
- Bright, Sheila Pree
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)
- Floyd, George

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## Collection Inventory

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### #1960Now, 2013-2023

#### Access Restrictions:

Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

#### Scope and Contents

Series contains physical and digital materials related to Bright's work documenting past and contemporary civil rights movements, including digital archival prints; gelatin silver prints; image, document, video, and system files; printed flyers, postcards, exhibition booklets; journals; and other assorted materials. Most materials, including images of protests and activists, relate directly to Bright's work on the project that were later featured in #1960Now: Photographs of Civil Rights Activists and Black Lives Matter Protests published in 2018. Also included are materials for related exhibitions for #1960Now or featuring Bright, talks about the project, images of the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act in Selma that occurred while the project was ongoing, and digital versions of Bright's murals under the name 1960What.

### Portraits, 2013-2015

Prints are arranged in order listed within each folder. Some prints include the name of the individual on the reverse side.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 30 digital archival prints on matte paper sized approximately 32x32 inches originally printed for an exhibit at New York University's Gallatin Galleries entitled, Heroes, Victories, & Triumphs in February 2017. The portraits are also included in Bright's 2018 book #1960Now. Portraits feature individuals involved in past and contemporary civil rights movements such as the Atlanta Student Movement, Freedom Riders, Dreamers, Black Lives Matters, as well as other grassroots organizations, and individual activists.

Portraits (1 of 9), 2015	Box 4
Raquel Willis, 2015	Box 4
Mickey Bradford, 2015	Box 4
Malacka Reed El, 2015	Box 4
Portraits (2 of 9), 2015	Box 4
Julian Plowden, 2015	Box 4
Bree Newsome, 2015	Box 4
Dr. Laura Emiko Soltis, 2015	Box 4
Portraits (3 of 9), 2015	Box 4
Lonnie King, 2015	Box 4
Devin Allen, 2015	Box 4
Aurielle Marie, 2015	Box 4
Portraits (4 of 9), 2013-2015	Box 4
Aldo E. Mendoza, 2015	Box 4
Eva Kendrick Wollert, 2013	Box 4
Evelyn Hall, 2015	Box 4
Portraits (5 of 9), 2015	Box 4
Robert Houston, 2015	Box 4
Westley West, 2015	Box 4

Faron Manuel, 2015	Box 4
Portraits (6 of 9), 2013-2015	Box 5
Taliba Obuya, 2015	Box 5
Charles Black, 2013	Box 5
Yoehzer Ben Yeefthak, 2015	Box 5
Portraits (7 of 9), 2013-2015	Box 5
Thomas Dimassimo, 2015	Box 5
Otis Moss, 2013	Box 5
Melissa Rivas-Triana, 2015	Box 5
Mamie King-Chambers, 2013	Box 5
Portraits (8 of 9), 2013-2015	Box 5
Hank Thomas, 2013	Box 5
Lillie Avery Simmons, 2013	Box 5
Joseph Black, 2013	Box 5
Kwame Rose, 2015	Box 5
Portraits (9 of 9), 2013-2015	Box 5
Gwendolyn Middlebrooks, 2013	Box 5
Crystal E. Monds, 2015	Box 5
Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr., 2015	Box 5
Dr. Roslyn Pope, 2013	Box 5

### **Protest Images, 2015-2016**

Prints are in order as listed within each folder. Included are printed brief descriptions with corresponding page numbers in #1960Now.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Includes 20 gelatin silver prints sized approximately 32x32 inches originally printed for Heroes, Victories, & Triumphs at New York University's Gallatin

Galleries in February 2017 and are some of the images featured in #1960Now. Images contain scenes of protests in several of the cities Bright visited for the project, with most depicting those that occurred in Atlanta. They include different signs addressing police violence and civil rights as well as featuring groups and individuals from varied ages and backgrounds.

Protest Images (1 of 6), 2016	Box 4
Baton Rouge, "No Justice No Peace" t-shirt, 2016	Box 4
Atlanta, "Unlovable Brats" t-shirt and flag, 2016	Box 4
Atlanta, "Is my daddy next?" sign, 2016	Box 4
Protest Images (2 of 6), 2016	Box 4
Philadelphia, Woman with fist up, 2016	Box 4
Atlanta, Group at streetlight with their hands up, 2016	Box 4
Protest Images (3 of 6), 2015-2016	Box 5
Atlanta, Man in white jeans and white t-shirt, 2016	Box 5
Atlanta, Janelle Monae with "What Happened to Alexia Christian?" sign, 2016	Box 5
Baltimore, Man showing gesture of "Hands up, don't shoot", 2015	Box 5
Protest Images (4 of 6), 2015-2016	Box 5
Baltimore, "Black Lives Matter" sign, 2015	Box 5
Atlanta, "We are not disposable" sign , 2016	Box 5
Atlanta, Man wearing large hat and in tears, 2016	Box 5
Ferguson, Three young kids out with signs, 2015	Box 5
Protest Images (5 of 6), 2015	Box 5

Atlanta, "Black Trans Lives Matter" sign, 2015	Box 5
Ferguson, Mike Brown's father with "Jail Darren Warren" sign, 2015	Box 5
Ferguson, Anonymous with "Stop Murder by Police" sign, 2015	Box 5
Atlanta, "Speak no evil" sign, 2015	Box 5
Protest Images (6 of 6), 2015-2016	Box 5
Ferguson, Upside down flag, 2015	Box 5
Washington D.C., In front of Justice the Guard of Liberty building, 2015	Box 5
Sonte Mountain (Atlanta), Protesting against white nationalists, 2016	Box 5
Atlanta, Close up of student, 2015	Box 5

## **Supporting Materials, 2015-2023**

### **Scope and Contents**

Includes physical materials related to Bright's #1960Now project such as a copy of the published book; the maquette or model version of the book; booklets, programs, flyers, and other ephemera for talks and exhibitions focused on #1960Now, Bright, or civil rights more broadly occurring at museums and universities; a t-shirt for the project; a poster with the words "I Matter" held by a protester photographed by Bright during a protest; and other assorted materials.

#1960Now, 2018	Box 1
#1960Now Book Maquette, circa 2018	Box 2
Correspondence, 2015-2016	Box 1
Draft of Deborah Willis Essay, circa 2018	Box 1
Exhibition Booklets, 2016	Box 1
Exhibition Ephemera, 2015-2023	Box 1
Flyers and Programs, 2016-2018	Box 1

Flyers for Talks, 2016-2023	Box 2
"Heroes, Victories, & Triumphs" Poster, 2017	Oversize-folder 2
"I Cried Today" Flyer for Sheila Pree Bright Talk, 2023	Box 1
"I Matter" Poster, 2016	Oversize-folder 1
Press Clippings, 2015-2021	Box 1
T-shirt with Button, circa 2015	Box 3

## Digital Materials, 2013-2020

### Access Restrictions:

Access note. Subseries contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### Scope and Contents

Includes digital materials in the form of image, video, and system files. Images include electronic versions of individuals in the Portraits subseries as well as one installation shot of a portrait on a building; electronic versions of protests featured in the Protest Images subseries, other protests and meetings featured in #1960Now, and one image not featured in the book; portraits of Sheila Pree Bright; wheat-pasted murals; and those taken during the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act originally passed in 1965 in Selma, Alabama. Also includes one video file for "Film Art + Intersections", related to a #1960Now essay featuring archival footage, music, and Bright's own footage of protests.

#1960Now Installation, 2017	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001
Faces, 2013-2015	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001
Protest, 2015-2016	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001
SPB Portraits, circa 2015-2019	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001
Video, circa 2018	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001

1960What Mural, circa 2013-2015	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001
Selma, 2015	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0001

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## George Floyd Protests, 2020

### Access Restrictions:

Access Note. Series contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### Scope and Contents

Contains image and document files related to various protests and events after the murder of George Floyd by police. Images were mostly taken in the summer of 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia and feature different movements such as Black Lives Matter, Black Maternal Health, Community Movement Builders, and others. Included are images of protests during the same period for Breonna Taylor and Rayshard Brooks who were also killed by police. There is also one folder of images taken at funeral of John Lewis, a civil rights activist and politician, and a document file with a poem by Bright, with the line, "I cried today."

4th of July Rally, 2020 July 04	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
Alliance for Black Lives Rally, 2020 June 07	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
Community Builder Rally, 2020	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
John Lewis Funeral, 2020	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
Juneteenth Celebration, 2020 June 19	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
Mothers Press Conference, 2020 June 02	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
People Uprising_Breonna Rally, 2020 September 25	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002

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Rayshard Brooks, 2020 June 14	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
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The Protector, 2020	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002

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## **Mothers March On, 2019**

### **Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### **Scope and Contents**

Contains digital materials in the form of image and video files, and one gelatin silver print sized 15.5x18 inches related to Bright's project, Mothers March On, focusing on mothers whose children were killed by police. Features images of Bright's installation of a mural, a print of the mothers, and a video related to a conference Bright held with the women featured in the project.

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Installations, 2019	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
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Mothers, 2019	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002
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Mothers March On print, 2019	Box 2
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Video, 2019	Digital-materials RL13153-SET-0002

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