

Still Standing Hannah Price

About the Artist

Hannah Price is a photographic artist and filmmaker primarily interested in documenting relationships, race politics, and social perception and misperception. Price is internationally known for her project *City of Brotherly Love* (2009-2012), a series of photographs of the men who catcalled her on the streets of Philadelphia. In 2014, Price graduated from the Yale School of Art MFA Photography program, receiving the Richard Benson Prize for excellence in photography. Over the past eight years, Price's photos have been displayed in several cities across the United States, with a few residing in the permanent collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

About Brent Leggs

Brent Leggs is Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and Senior Vice President at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A Harvard University Loeb Fellow and author of *Preserving African American Historic Places*, which is considered the “seminal publication on preserving African American historic sites” by the Smithsonian Institution, Brent is a national leader in the U.S. preservation movement and the 2018 recipient of the Robert G. Stanton National Preservation Award. His passion for elevating the significance of Black culture in American history is visible through his work, which elevates the remarkable stories and places that evoke centuries of Black activism, achievement, and community.

Cover image: *Cellar, August Wilson's house*, August 2021, Hannah Price, courtesy of the artist.

Still Standing

Photography and historical preservation are interventions that appear to interrupt and stop the action of time. By drawing attention to a particular moment—often before a transformation takes place—these interventions ask us to consider our relationships with the past. How does the legacy of the past inspire the future? How have time and history shaped how we understand ourselves?

Helen Trompeteler
Deputy Director
of Programs,
Silver Eye Center
for Photography

We are honored to present these photographs by Hannah Price, made while an African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Fellow with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Price documented the restoration of historic buildings in the Hill District and Homewood neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. These included the August Wilson House, the National Negro Opera Company House, and the New Granada Theater. Whether honoring Black cultural figures or supporting Black centers of creativity, the Trust brings attention to the importance of historical memory and cultural continuity.

Still Standing includes Price's portraits of people living in the communities around these landmarks today. Where history is honored by the preservation of these buildings, individual and collective memory is shaped by connection to place. These portraits reflect that these structures exist in thriving communities whose heritage inspires the creative life of the Hill District and Homewood now and in the future.

Artist Perspective

Hannah Price

It's a shame that Black people have to search for their history, but the beauty behind such an oppressive history is what connects us.

Approaching the National Trust Fellowship had me in circles trying to come up with an idea. Ultimately, I wanted to have all this knowledge about my subjects and make clever work connecting them all. Unfortunately, I am not a research artist. I am a documentarian, artist, photographer. [...] As an adult, it's frustrating to frequently stumble upon your own history you didn't know about. The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund brought this history to me and I am thankful for that.

I am the type of artist that has to include pain when I talk about race politics in my photographs. Over six years ago, the pain was a haunting darkness that followed nightly. In this [work] it's the weather before a storm. Making work about famous Black peoples' homes was intimidating, because I felt un-knowledgeable. I wanted to know every single thing about each person & their work. However, visiting the sites, and finding a few residents who had an experience to share, whether it be themselves or a relative; I decided to make a book of my experience photographing the structures and meeting people along the way.



Still Standing

I began by chasing the clouds...

I wanted dark clouds before a rain storm. The weather before the storm is the oppression that follows Black people in our daily lives, but the beauty and excellence of the structures are still standing tall.

Excerpted from Hannah Price's essay in limited-edition artist book
Still Standing, 2022

Images from left to right: *Ms. Denise*, August 2021. *The New Granada Theater*, August 2021. *James' View of the Hill*, August 2021. All images by Hannah Price, courtesy of the artist.

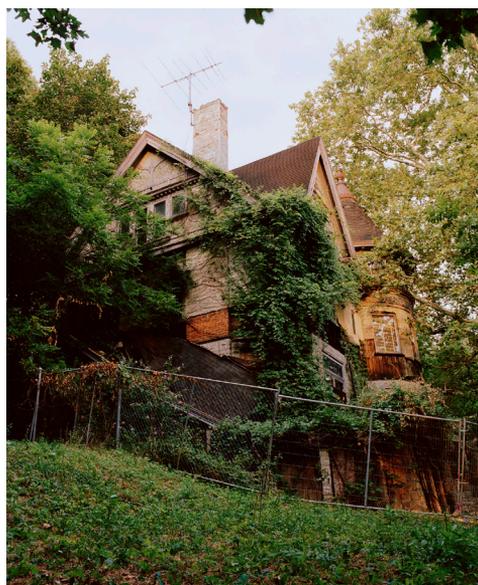


A Perspective from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Brent Leggs

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the nationwide movement to protect cultural landscapes and historic buildings important in Black history. In 2018, we partnered with the Jesse Ball duPont Fund to establish our fellowship program and to make room for Black leaders, like Price, in our work to re-imagine interpretation of the past, and its impact on the present.

Price was invited to photograph historic assets in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh where we have long supported preservation efforts. I had anticipated seeing a kind of haunting beauty and stillness in Price's work. But instead, I would experience a personal shift in my own understanding of visual art as a form of social justice. Through her lens and impassioned heart, Price eloquently positions architectural landmarks as a backdrop to the Black communities she visited and for the very people whom they have long served.



Still Standing

Price found a way to showcase both people and landmarks as monuments and the subjects of their own stories, expressing the belonging and interconnectedness of human beings in place. While capturing beauty and resilience in physical forms, her photography forces the viewer to see themselves in our shared human experience and to consider their own vulnerability and strength. In essence, that sentiment is core to what the Action Fund is all about - protecting generations of Black history and culture.

Price's book unearths a fascinating and true American story. Her photographs serve as a reminder of our progress, and they remind us that our work is not complete. Ultimately, this work is about saving historic places and legacy in a way that does right by all those who came before us, and who worked hard to create the world of possibility we live in today. It also is for those who will come after, in the world that we are creating now, and will leave for them.

Excerpted from Brent Leggs' essay in limited-edition artist book
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Images from left to right: *Stacia*, August 2021. *National Negro Opera Company House*, August 2021. *Cellar*, August Wilson's house, August 2021. All images by Hannah Price, courtesy of the artist.



Hannah Price

James' View of the Hill

August 2021
Archival pigment print
43 5/16 x 52 5/16 inches



Hannah Price

Ms. Denise

August 2021
Archival pigment print
35 13/16 x 29 9/16 inches



Hannah Price

Shalomont

August 2021
Archival pigment print
35 7/8 x 29 1/4 inches



Hannah Price

*National Negro Opera
Company House*

August 2021
Archival pigment print
52 x 42 13/16 inches



Hannah Price

Crawford Grill

August 2021
Archival pigment print
52 7/8 x 43 5/16 inches



Hannah Price

Stacia

August 2021
Archival pigment print
37 13/16 x 30 3/4 inches



Hannah Price

The New Granada Theater

August 2021
Printed on Photo Tex
82 x 100 inches



Hannah Price

Sandra

August 2021
Archival Pigment Print
43 3/8 x 35 3/8 inches



Hannah Price

The New Granada Theater

August 2021
Archival pigment print
52 13/16 x 42 13/16 inches



Hannah Price

August Wilson's house

August 2021
Archival pigment print
52 7/8 x 43 1/16 inches



Hannah Price

Kitchen, August Wilson's house

August 2021
Archival pigment print
41 x 49 7/8 inches



Hannah Price

Cellar, August Wilson's house

August 2021
Archival pigment print
52 13/16 x 40 13/16 inches

**Silver Eye Center for Photography
The Aaronel deRoy Gruber & Irving Gruber Gallery
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