

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Photographs by Jamel Shabazz: 1980–1989

Opening: **Saturday, 19 March 2022, 4 – 9 pm**

Duration: **23 March – 4 June 2022**

Location: **Galerie Bene Taschen, Moltkestrasse 81, 50674 Cologne**



Joy Riding, Flatbush, Brooklyn 1981 (left) | Young Love, Downtown Brooklyn NY, 1983 (right)
both images: © Jamel Shabazz + Courtesy Galerie Bene Taschen

Jamel Shabazz was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. At the young age of fifteen, he picked up his first camera and started his photographic journey. Since the early 1980s, Shabazz has captured the energy of street life in New York, making iconic images of community, joy, and style. The upcoming solo show **Photographs by Jamel Shabazz: 1980–1989** brings together mostly unseen works from this era. Shabazz was one of the first photographers to document the emerging youth culture, along with his own experiences, in neighborhoods across East Flatbush, Bedford-Stuyvesant, downtown Brooklyn, up to Times Square. Capturing a time long gone from our collective culture and a wide range of social conditions, Shabazz made the streets of New York and the city's subway system the backdrop for many of his iconic photographs.

Shabazz has exhibited his homegrown approach to portraiture everywhere from the Rockefeller Plaza in New York and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Addis Foto Fest in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His work is part of the permanent collections at the Whitney Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Smithsonian's

National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Fashion Institute of Technology. His books *Back in the Days* and *A Time Before Crack* are considered classics for their articulation of a visual vernacular and continue to inspire young generations of photographers.



The Observer, NY, 1985 (left) | Friends, Bed Stuy, Brooklyn, NYC, 1981 (right)
both images: © Jamel Shabazz + Courtesy Galerie Bene Taschen

About Galerie Bene Taschen: Founded in 2011 in Cologne, Galerie Bene Taschen represents some of the world's leading artists in contemporary photography and painting. The gallery is committed to promoting its international artists through regular participation in major art fairs such as Paris Photo and Art Cologne, as well as its extensive exhibition program. In 2011, Galerie Bene Taschen made its debut with LA photographer Gregory Bojorquez; in 2013, it began working with Joseph Rodriguez from New York. In 2014, the acclaimed Berlin-based photographer Miron Zownir joined the gallery's program, followed by American photographers Jamel Shabazz and Arlene Gottfried from New York in 2015. The gallery has been pleased to represent New York-based photographer Jeff Mermelstein and German painter Charlotte Trossbach since autumn 2017 and has been working with renowned photographers Sebastião Salgado and Larry Fink since autumn/winter 2019.

Contact for information about the gallery and the artworks:

Galerie Bene Taschen | Tel: +49 (0)221 1690 5505 | info@benetaschen.com

www.benetaschen.com

Hours: Wednesday–Friday, 1–6 pm; Saturday, 11–4 pm and by appointment

Press contact:

Nadine Dinter PR | Nadine Dinter | Fasanenstrasse 70, 10719 Berlin

Tel: +49 (0)30/398 87 411 | Mobile: +49 (0)151 123 70 951 | presse@nadine-dinter.de