

FREE Information sheet. Please take one.

James Barnor *Ever Young*

5 July to 31 August 2013

James Barnor's archive was produced during a career spanning more than sixty years. It covers a remarkable period in history, bridging continents and photographic genres as it creates a transatlantic narrative marked by his passionate interest in people and cultures. Through the medium of portraiture, Barnor's photographs represent societies in transition: his native country of Ghana, Africa, moving towards independence, and his adopted home of London becoming a cosmopolitan multicultural metropolis.

During the 1950s Barnor's portrait studio Ever Young in Accra was visited by a wide range of people, such as dignitaries and civil servants, performers and newlyweds. Barnor left Ghana for the UK in 1959, shortly after it became the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from colonial rule. During the Swinging Sixties in London, he began to produce social documentary, life-style and fashion features in glorious colour, many of which were published in the influential South African *Drum* magazine.

This exhibition is a direct result of archival research supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2009/10, and features new prints made from Barnor's original, digitally preserved negatives, as well as vintage photographs from the late 1940s to early 1970s. An expanded display of original ephemera including magazine clippings, record covers, personal photographs and letters has been specially selected for Impressions Gallery.

To find out more, browse our reading table, view the timeline of historical events, or watch the short video featuring an interview with the photographer. James Barnor will be discussing his work with Renée Mussai, Head of Archive at Autograph ABP and curator of the exhibition, at our free artist talk on Saturday 10 August at 2pm. Booking is recommended.

James Barnor was born in Accra, Ghana in 1929 and started his photographic career with a makeshift studio in Jamestown. From the early 1950s he operated 'Ever Young' studio in Accra and worked as a photographer for the *Daily Graphic* newspaper, as well as *Drum*, Africa's foremost lifestyle and politics magazine. He left Ghana for the UK in 1959 and studied photography at Medway College of Art in Kent. He returned to Ghana in 1969 as a representative for Agfa Gevaert to introduce colour processing facilities in Accra. He is currently retired and lives in Brentford, London. Since Autograph ABP's archival intervention in 2010, Barnor's work has been shown internationally at venues including Harvard University, Boston; South African National Gallery, Cape Town; Rivington Place, London; Tate Britain, London; and Paris Photo 2012. His photographs are represented in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate and Government Art Collection in Britain, as well as in numerous international private collections.

Ever Young: James Barnor is an Autograph ABP touring exhibition curated by Renée Mussai. Showing as part of Art in Yorkshire Goes Contemporary: a celebration of contemporary art in twenty one public galleries throughout Yorkshire during 2013.