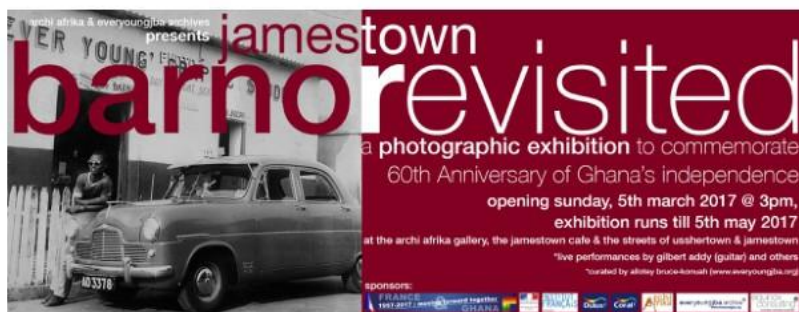




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PRESS RELEASE

VENUE: ArchiAfrika Design & Architecture Gallery. Ussherstown, Accra. Two buildings from Ussher Fort

DATE: 5th March 2017 - 5th May 2017

TIME: 10am - 9pm everyday of the week

ARCHIAFRIKA GALLERY & THE JAMESTOWN CAFE IN USSHERTOWN

Joe Osae Addo - 0264 312 917

CURATOR: Allotey Bruce-Konuah 0243703387 (www.everyyoungjba.org, everyyoung.jba@gmail.com)

James Barnor's Jamestown Revisited as the names indicates, explores through his photography, the narrative on the history of the city of Accra, where he was born and practiced photography. We are focusing on imagery of historical buildings and spaces to remind us of the need for conservation and restoration of these unique heritage assets oft neglected in our national dialogue.

James Barnor's work freezes in time the nostalgia and the spirit of Accra in a way that allows us to reimagine what our city could be. We hope to leave viewers who interact with these images with the sense of optimism as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. Jamestown Revisited looks back at history but its main intent is to reach out to the future of Accra and its great potential.

This exhibition is also a lesson in the importance of digitising our visual heritage for posterity

The use of photography has been a great store of our past/present showing chronological changes in the functions and uses of documentary. In Africa oral tradition has been our main method of storing our histories. The method has been used for storing events, music, dance, performance, culture and traditions. Storing visual history has been done in these spheres mentioned because of the lack of system. The store of our collective memories usually held by elders are handed down through lineage and sometimes through those who are interested. They are also handed down through socio cultural practices in our various families, homes, ethnic groups and communities.

The nature of our histories and it's storage methods makes it difficult to have proper visual representation/recollection to actualise their use and meaning in relation to our present.

Photography gives us the platform to capture these histories visually on so many different socio- cultural/economic/political moments like weddings, funerals, church, ceremonies for viewing at another time. This serves a store/archive for that captured moment or a store of history for their families and an archive of their collective existence, allowing it to be shared communally with friends, family kinsmen, community.

Printed photographs, the method of storage of these visual histories are under threat of disappearing through neglect and bad storage because they are deemed not valuable.

Some of the key questions that this exhibition explores in are the social backgrounds of the archived families. Other key areas might be their economic class, educational attainment /achievement, their links with the diaspora, the reasons for the pictures that were taken. etc

This exhibition, presented indoors and outdoors aims to bring the pictures of the community to the people represented. For the first time the people represented will be able to see positive images of themselves in their forebearers. These images show a gone by time of enlightenment and a progressive attitude to life in these parts that is lost on the present inhabitants. partly caused by unemployment, low self esteem, lack of education and all the other impediments to human development. The exhibition therefore aims to serve as a mirror of a past that can be used as a spur to the potential development of the future.