



After serving in the United States Air Force between 1952-1956, I left my hometown of Louisville, KY, to follow my dream of being an actor. In NY, I attended The American Academy of Dramatic Art, graduating in 1959.

I got acting parts in Off Broadway theaters and in 1967, became a founding member of the then new Negro Ensemble Company. I toured the U.S. and Europe with them.

I have worked extensively Off Broadway, in movies, television, and commercials. In 2005, I was honored to receive the NAACP and City of Los Angeles Trailblazer Award.

My other passion is photography, particularly of the posters I saw pasted on outdoor walls on the New York streets that I walked every day. I was stunned by the “impromptu art” I saw, all by anonymous artists.

In 1964, I bought my first camera, a Leica 111B. During the next year, I started shooting walls. In the beginning, most of what I shot were advertisements for movies, plays and jazz concerts. But over time, I began to see a change in posters; the late 1960’s and 1970’s gave rise to protest art.

During these 50 years, I have concentrated on small torn paper posters; I call these ripped posters “atmospherically developed.” The torn images that might have started out large have become, what I see as abstract art. They were all paper images adhered to the walls with paste, which breaks down over time and in all sorts of weather. As the paper breaks down, each poster develops into a beautiful abstract form.

I work this way; I walk all over town and photograph whatever I see. Looking back, I see my archive of thousands of photos as a quasi-historical document of 50 years of the history of jazz, politics and theatre in New York.

**Norman Bush  
Photographer**



**Norman Bush Photography**

Clark Atlanta University  
Sustainability Council  
Living Green Club &  
HBCU Green Fund  
Welcome



Summit 2017

PRESENTING:

**The Genius of Norman Bush:  
Urban Street Art Retrospective**

The magical lens of Norman Bush transports his audience through the streets of America's greatest city over more than a half-century. His collection establishes street art as a powerful expression of Urban Ecology. Bush captures the effects of time, weather and the human need to communicate, transforming the torn and tattered to a third dimension. Bush exposes the texture and temporal qualities of Street Art. The phrase "Post No Bills" refers to city laws which forbid the posting of handbills believed to make the walls look ugly detracting from the view. Bush's creative photography documents bill posting as the social media of the pre-digital era where recurring social justice themes come to life on city walls. His unique style produces a prolific, unparalleled multidimensional chronicle juxtaposing the culture, politics and movement in the quintessential American city. Norman Bush brings the history of the street alive for diverse intergenerational audiences.

**Photograph Titles In Chronological Order**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. 1965 Supremes                      | 34. 2007 Tyson                         |
| 2. 1968 Che & Judy                    | 35. 2017 Angela Davis                  |
| 3. 1967 Muddy Waters                  | 36. Date Unknown Camel                 |
| 4. 1967 JFK Memorium                  | 37. 2010 Twin Vamps                    |
| 5. 1966 Mao                           | 38. 2007 Global Warming                |
| 6. 1968 My Lai                        | 39. 2017 Since 1957                    |
| 7. 1970 Eldridge Cleaver              | 40. 2008 Obama Door                    |
| 8. 1970 Fred Hampton                  | 41. 2017 Oprah                         |
| 9. 1971 Bobby Seal                    | 42. 2017 Christ is Love                |
| 10. 1972 Marjo/Super Fly              | 43. 2017 Kanye                         |
| 11. 1974 Black Family                 | 44. 2017 Aaliajah/B.I.G.               |
| 12. 1978 Smash Bakke                  | 45. 2016 Muslim Ban                    |
| 13. 1971 Ali /Frazer                  | 46. 2016 Donald                        |
| 14. 1971 James Brown/Bobby Seal       | 47. 2011 Steve Jobs Memorial           |
| 15. 1974 Boycott Gulf                 | 48. 1970 Post No Bills                 |
| 16. 1978 March Against Racism         | 49. Date Unknown Anarchy               |
| 17. 1975 Palisades                    |  |
| 18. 1990 Prince                       | <b>On the Floor</b>                    |
| 19. 1987 Clarice Taylor               | 1. Grease                              |
| 20. 1985 Red Dot/ Keith Harding       | 2. 1985 New Musical /Keith Harding     |
| 21. 1967 Fight for Freedom            | 3. 1977 Arms Too Short to Box with God |
| 22. 2001 Basquiat                     | 4. Jazz, Jazz, Jazz                    |
| 23. 1994 SoHo Woodwork                | 5. 1975 Uncle Tom's Cabin              |
| 24. 1978 Andrew Young – Free          | 6. 1988 Tina Turner                    |
| 25. 1978 Wiz                          | 7. 1985 Dance Theatre of Harlem        |
| 26. Date Unknown Ellington            | 8. 1977 Kent State                     |
| 27. 1980 Apartheid                    | 9. 2008 Obama Balloon                  |
| 28. 1984 Sex Witch                    | 10. 1982 Malcolm Lives/Audubon         |
| 29. 1988 Contra                       | 11. 1984 Ali /Forman                   |
| 30. 1989 Basketball Magic             | 12. 2011 Steve Jobs Memorial           |
| 31. 2006 Face Tits                    | 13. 1979 NY Expo                       |
| 32. 2001 Diamond Ring                 | 14. 2016 Bernie                        |
| 33. 1996 Encounter of the Fourth Kind |  |

