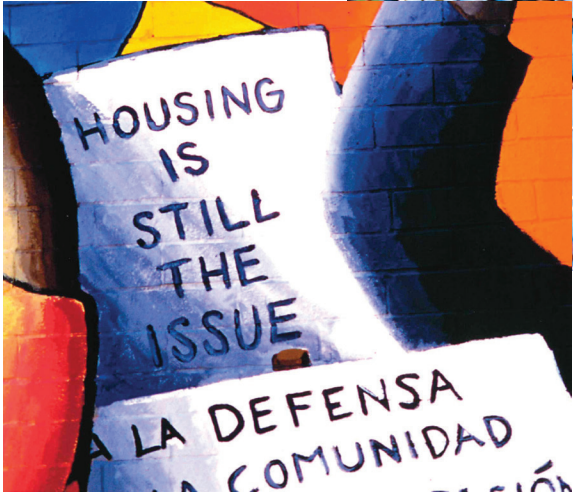


LAST LOOK

Clockwise from top: "Peaceful March Marquette Park, August 5, 1966"; "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Coretta Scott King, March in Grant Park, July 30, 1966"; and "Housing Mural, Chicago, John Pittman Weber", all photographed by Bernard Kleina and featured in Elmhurst Art Museum's new exhibition.



FREEDOM FIGHTING

From MLK to the present day, Elmhurst Art Museum explores the history of fair housing in its latest exhibition.

BY J.P. ANDERSON



With issues of social justice at the fore of our national conversation, cultural institutions across the U.S. are stepping up to provide an artistic perspective that adds valuable nuance to the discussion. Case in point: Elmhurst Art Museum's topical new exhibition *In Focus: The Chicago Freedom Movement and The Fight for Fair Housing*, whose centerpiece is a series of 41 images—all by 85-year-old photographer, activist and Wheaton resident Bernard Kleina—of Chicago civil rights leaders and public marches from the 1965 to 1967 movement against segregation in the city, including some of the first color documentary pics of Martin Luther King Jr. Notes museum executive director John McKinnon, "Through a combination of art, education and architecture, *In Focus* reflects on historical and contemporary responses to housing

discrimination beginning with the crucial Chicago Freedom Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., James Bevel and Al Raby." Along with the photographs, the exhibition includes local responses to the issue, from maps and statistics to a collab between the Design Museum of Chicago, Elmhurst Art Museum's Teen Art Council and York Community High School's Black Student Union. For McKinnon, the power of *In Focus* is captured in an image of MLK pictured with wife Coretta Scott King during a 1966 event in Grant Park. "The facial expression Kleina captured here seems to carry so much of Martin Luther King's grace and determination. Plus, the striking color in Kleina's rare photographs reminds us that these events did not happen so long ago." *Through June 20, 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst, elmhurstartmuseum.org*

PHOTOS BY BERNARD KLEINA