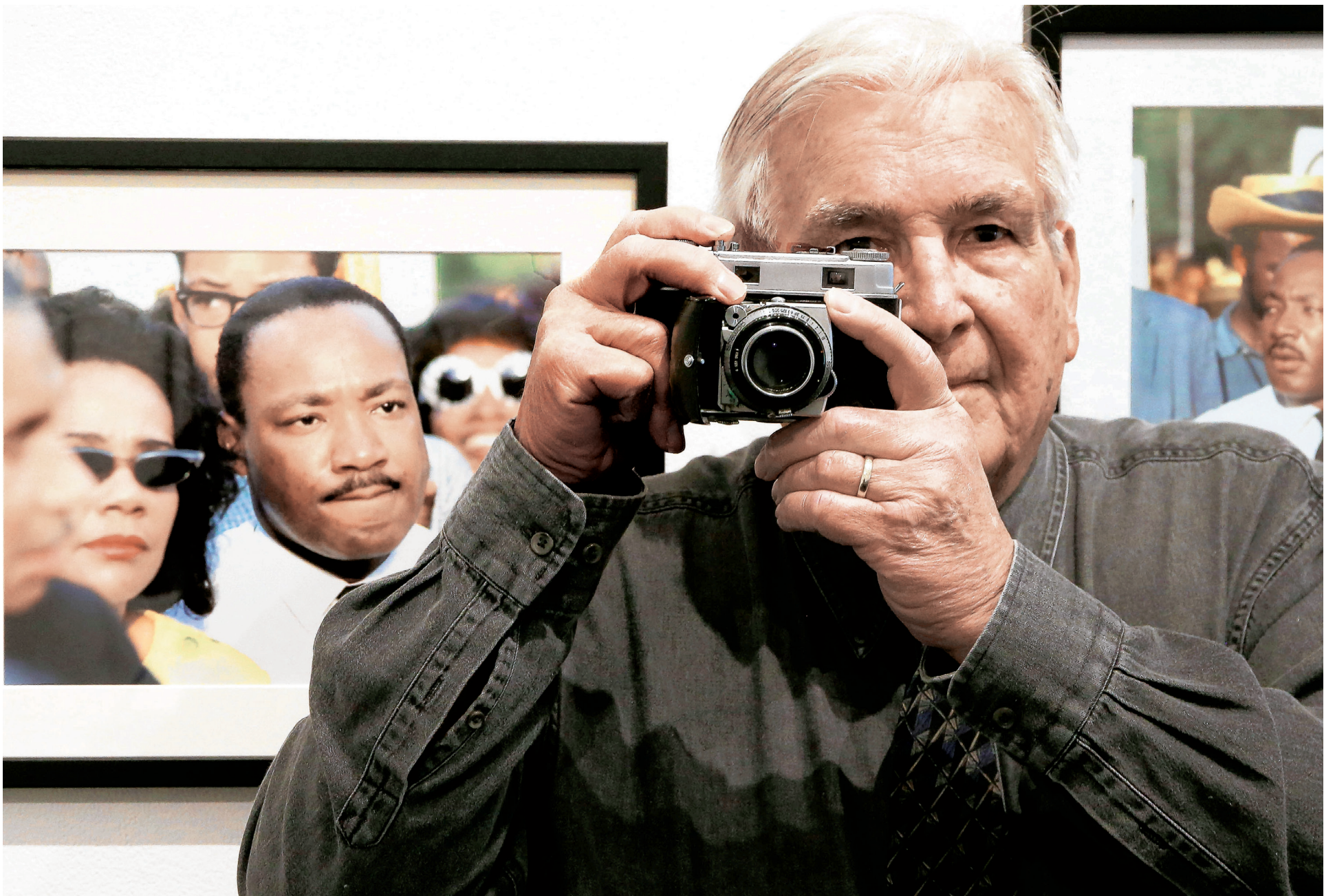


Chicago Tribune

REAL ESTATE



Bernard Kleina with his photos on display at the "In Focus: The Chicago Freedom Movement and the Fight for Fair Housing" at the Elmhurst Art Museum. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

History repeating itself

Fair housing exhibit highlights parallels to racial justice protests

By Darcel Rockett
Chicago Tribune

The racial reckoning wrought by 2020's nationwide protests garnered global attention as people's lives changed and social injustices were laid plain. The same proved true over 50 years ago for Wheaton resident Bernard Kleina, who left behind life as a priest in Chicago's west suburbs to capture iconic depictions of history in the making in the 1960s.

Kleina's photography anchors the Elmhurst Art Museum's latest exhibit, "In Focus: The Chicago Freedom Movement and the Fight for Fair Housing," a show that reflects on historical and contemporary responses to fair housing in Chicagoland, beginning with the Chicago Freedom Movement.

Dozens of Kleina's photos add to the housing narrative the museum has created with contextual stories and archival works from local housing

organizations, publications, museums, activists, youth and artists.

"It really changed my whole life. It's that simple," he said. "We just tried to do the best we can to bring about the changes that are possible — and that's what I'm still trying to do."

For him, the 1965 marches, protests and demonstrations for civil rights were a turning point. Then a Roman Catholic priest at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Elmhurst, Kleina was watching television on March 7, 1965, when he saw activist and future U.S. Rep. John Lewis and others marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, demanding the right to vote.

Kleina recalls seeing the peaceful demonstrators being beaten and tear-gassed by state troopers and knew he couldn't just sit and do nothing. Eight days later, he went to Alabama to get involved in the demonstrations, his



Postcards showing Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights marches, along with a camera used by photographer Bernard Kleina are on display at the Elmhurst Art Museum.

"first involvement in civil rights issues," he said. "When I came back to Chicago after Selma ... my life as a civil rights photographer began," Kleina said. "Even though I was — and I'm not being modest here — totally ignorant of photography."

With one camera and two lenses, Kleina captured Martin Luther King Jr. during the Chicago Free-

dom Movement, the fight against discriminatory housing practices in Chicago. Kleina's images of King at rallies and demonstrations while here have since become a part of history; the pictures were eventually acquired by the Smithsonian Museum.

"I never took photos before except for on vacations and family. But I took these in color. And

as it turns out, I'm one of the first photographers to photograph Dr. King in color," said the now 85-year-old photographer.

As Kleina tells his story, one notices he is well practiced in telling it. He reads a statement about his photography from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute that he likes: "These photographs ... are some of the first color photographs that the world saw of Dr. King. Mr. Kleina captured one of the most violent missions Dr. King undertook, and it wasn't in the deep South."

"It didn't even occur to me at the time that I was doing something different," Kleina said. "I tell young people, 'Don't wait until you think you're completely qualified to do something, because the moment may pass you by. Just get out there and do your best.'"

At the art museum, the multifaceted exhibit juxtaposes Kleina's work with Chicago photographer Vashon Jordan Jr.'s images from the summer 2020 protests, along with statistics, maps and first-person

accounts of the Chicago Freedom Movement and the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Teens from the Elmhurst Art Museum's Teen Council and York Community High School's Black Student Union collaborated with the Design Museum of Chicago to create works examining the teens' relationships to their homes.

In the museum's McCormick House, a complementary exhibition features the work "There is Black Housing in the Future: Equitable Public Housing as Memorial," a collaboration between Pittsburgh artist Alisha Wormsley and School of the Art Institute of Chicago professor Ayanah Moor.

The piece looks at grassroots activism from organizations like the Chicago-based nonprofit A Long Walk Home, which advocates for racial and gender equity in communities, and Moms 4 Housing, a California-based group fighting for affordable, dignified housing for all.

Moor and Wormsley

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ELITE STREET

Bulls coach Billy Donovan buys Lincoln Park-area mansion for \$3.5M

By Bob Goldsborough
For Chicago Tribune

Chicago Bulls head coach Billy Donovan paid \$3.5 million Jan. 27 for a newly built, six-bedroom, 5,200-square-foot mansion in the Lincoln Park area.

Donovan, 55, joined the Bulls in September after five seasons as the head coach of the Oklahoma City Thunder and 19 seasons prior to that as the head coach of the University of Florida's men's basketball team.

The three-story house that Donovan bought was constructed by AK Custom Homes. The 12-room mansion has five full bathrooms, two half-bathrooms, two fireplaces, a custom staircase, Pella windows,

an elevator serving all three floors and the basement, a kitchen with Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances and a primary bedroom with four closets and radiant heat on the lower level. The home also has a covered roof deck on the top floor and a pergola.

The house, in the Ranch Triangle neighborhood within the Lincoln Park community area, had been listed Sept. 24 for \$3.6 million.

Paul Gorney of eXp Realty, who represented Donovan, declined to comment on the purchase. Bulls spokeswoman Beth Grady also declined to comment on Donovan's behalf, as did seller and listing agent Azeem Khan, who owns AK Custom

Homes.

Donovan in November sold his four-bedroom, 4,078-square-foot house in Nichols Hills, Oklahoma, for \$1.15 million. That was the same amount that he had paid for that house in 2015.

St. Charles mansion where Brian Wilson recorded music sold to Pampered Chef CEO for \$809K: A five-bedroom French Country-style mansion in St. Charles, complete with a recording studio, that Beach Boys co-founder Brian Wilson owned from 1997 until 2001 sold Oct. 8 for \$809,000.

For his entire career, Wilson has had a home in

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The St. Charles mansion once owned by Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys sold to the CEO of Pampered Chef for \$809,000. SUSAN MADAY/BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

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also created activist art kits with video guides on how to make posters, yard signs and even kites to support community voices. Groups like Lift the Ban Coalition come together in the Elmhurst space with artists like Tonika Johnson of Folded Map acclaim to show that there's still a long way to go before we achieve equitable housing for all.

"I would say that this is definitely the most active social justice show we've had," said John McKinnon, Elmhurst Art Museum's executive director. "This is a fairly big undertaking for us."

As it happened, the museum was already planning to feature Kleina a full year before last summer's protests, McKinnon said.

"We had already circled in on his Chicago Freedom Movement series and wanted to have a show about this," he said. "But the timing was such that we had no idea we would see history repeat itself in many ways."

And so, what began as a way of creating awareness about the history of Chicago's fair housing struggles became a way to connect the dots from the social inequities of yesteryear to the fight that continues in 2021. The museum is providing online housing resources that McKinnon hopes will further some citizen action on housing, given the pandemic and current housing concerns.

"We really wanted to let it speak to the moment, but also reveal some things about our history and tell the full story about housing, and where we're at, at the moment," he said. "We hope that we can spread the word about other organizations and actions people can take."

Kleina's life path diverged when he joined in on the Chicago Freedom Movement fight. He left the priesthood in 1968 and worked at HOPE



Dozens of Bernard Kleina's photos, including the one above, add to the housing narrative the museum has created with contextual stories and archival works from local housing organizations and activists. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Fair Housing Center, a nonprofit in Wheaton dedicated to ending housing discrimination in Illinois.

He worked there for more than 40 years, eventually serving as its executive director before retiring in 2011. Growing up in Chicago in predominantly white spaces and educational institutions, he said he was more naive than he should have been about racial inequities. But Selma brought them sharply into focus.

"It was an eye-opener for me," he said. "I really have to give Dr. King credit for making me aware of the issues of fair housing, when he was here in Chicago. Because given my upbringing, I just didn't understand that things were as bad as they were — but I certainly found out."

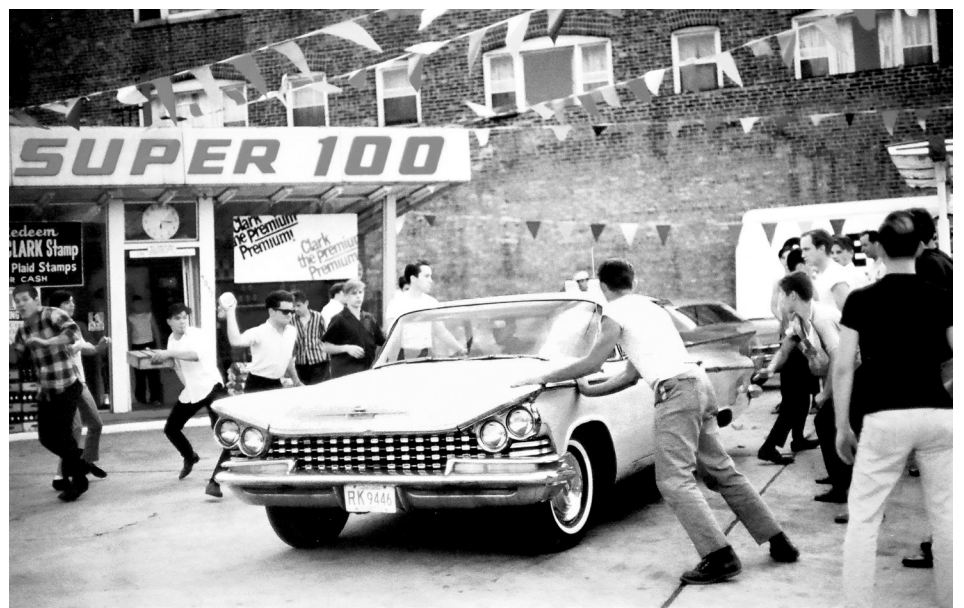
Kleina still takes photos, but he said his knees just won't let him cover demonstrations like he used to. He still hopes his

life's work with fair housing provides some understanding and context on this national issue. Citing an Urban Institute report about homeownership rates for Black college graduates remaining lower than for white high school dropouts, Kleina said there's still work to be done.

"People ask, 'How is that possible?' It's possible because of discrimination, because of segregation (and) all of these issues that we try to sweep under the rug," he said. "Housing discrimination does so much damage in that it steals people's homes, their education, their money, their imagination, their self-worth, their dreams."

Of course, there's been progress since Kleina first picked up his camera to document the fight for equality, but systemic issues in housing will take much longer to solve.

"Changing discrimination in housing is not like



A color photograph by Bernard Kleina shows a white mob attacking people in a car during civil rights protests in 1966.

integrating lunch counters and movie theaters and water fountains. Those kind of things can happen in a day, but can't happen with housing," he said. "Certainly, there's been progress made but not to

the extent that it needs to be made — there's still so much more discrimination."

"In Focus: The Chicago Freedom Movement and the Fight for Fair Housing," runs through June 20 at

the Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 Cottage Hill Ave. A virtual talk with Kleina is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday.

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SAVINGS UPDATE

How to reduce your debt with the avalanche method

For anyone with multiple debts, the prospect of paying them all off can feel overwhelming. But with a few minutes and a pencil and paper, you can use the debt avalanche method to craft a plan that will have you paying the least amount of interest and getting debt-free as soon as possible.

Start by collecting the details of all your outstanding debts so you can list them with their interest rate and minimum monthly payment. Most people will focus on credit cards, auto loans, personal loans, and student loans, but if paying off your mortgage early is a goal, you can include it as well.

Next, order the debts by interest rate, with the highest-rate debt at the top. The idea is to always be focusing your extra payments on whatever debt is costing you the most.

All the while you'll make the minimum monthly

payments on your lower-rate debts, to keep everything current and build your credit. You'll also need to decide how much extra money you can commit each month to your debt reduction goals.

Whether that commitment is \$100 or \$1,000, the avalanche method will have you applying the entire extra amount to the debt at the top of your list. And if you have extra one month, you can pay that towards your top debt as well. You'll do this every month until that debt is paid off, then move to the debt with the next-highest rate.

The avalanche method has basic math in its favor. By always targeting your most expensive debt, you reduce how long you're on the hook for that high interest rate, and reduce the overall interest you'll pay in the end. For those with significant debts, it will also shorten the time needed to reach your debt reduction finish line.

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