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## Photo show features influential Black perspective at DIA



"Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite" is the first major exhibition dedicated to Brathwaite, a vital figure of the second Harlem Renaissance. Inspired by activist and black nationalist Marcus Garvey's writings, Brathwaite, along with his older brother, Elombe Brath, founded the African Jazz Arts Society and Studios (AJASS) and the Grandassa Models. (Courtesy Detroit Institute of Arts)

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The Detroit Institute of Arts mounts an exhibition of more than 40 large-scale photos by Kwame Brathwaite, whose work helped advance one of the "Black Is Beautiful" cultural movement of the 1960s, when Black women and men turned to natural hairstyles and African-inspired clothing. Brathwaite co-founded the African Jazz Arts Society and Studios, a collective of artists, playwrights, designers, and dancers. "Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite" runs Friday, Oct. 8, through Jan. 16, at the Detroit Institute of Arts, [dia.org](http://dia.org).

Philip Martin Gallery



Kwame Brathwaite, Self-portrait, African Jazz-Art Society & Studios (AJASS), Harlem, ca. 1964; from Kwame Brathwaite: *Black Is Beautiful* (Aperture, 2019)