

HANK O'NEAL

The Ghosts of Harlem

May 22 – July 11, 2009

Artist Reception
Thursday, May 21, 6-8pm



John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, 1991

Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to present a selection of work from Hank O'Neal's award winning book, *The Ghosts of Harlem: Sessions with Jazz Legends*.

O'Neal first began photographing jazz musicians in the early 1970's for his record label Chiaroscuro Records. In 1985, he began interviewing and photographing the jazz legends who had made music in Harlem during its heyday and through the decline. He took a straight approach, shooting formal portraits with a large format camera, making pictures in the musician's homes and neighborhoods. The result is classic portraits of such noted musicians as Cab Calloway, Benny Carter, and "Dizzy" Gillespie, that are dignified and personal.

O'Neal had been actively making photographs for 15 years when he moved to New York City in 1967 to pursue a career in record producing. After receiving a Berenice Abbott monograph from a friend, he contacted the artist about purchasing two of her photographs, leading to a life long friendship. Through Berenice he developed close relationships with several other masters of the medium. Andre Kertesz, Walker Evans, Bert Stern, and Lee Witkin, all who encouraged, nurtured, and advised him in his photographic pursuits.

Hank O'Neal, president of Chiaroscuro Records, has produced over 200 jazz LP's and CDs, and over 100 music festivals. O'Neal has published several books of his own work including *Gay Day: The Golden Age of the Christopher Street Parade*, the award winning *Ghosts of Harlem*, and a illustrated a deluxe edition of Robert Penn Warren's *All the Kings Men*. Additionally, O'Neal has authored the now classic FSA collection: *A Vision Shared: A Classic Portrait of America and It's People, 1953 -1943*. And the landmark study of his close friend Berenice Abbott, *Berenice Abbott: American Photographer*.

For further information, or to request visuals for press
Contact Ali Price at 212 334 0010 or ali@howardgreenberg.com
Starting May 16th, the exhibition can be viewed at www.howardgreenberg.com