

# THE MISSING CHAPTER

## BLACK CHRONICLES/ARCHIVE LABORATORY

Project Space 2

21 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2016

Curator: Renée Mussai

Autograph ABP presents *Black Chronicles Archive Laboratory* – an immersive and interactive space to preview the latest research and resources from The Missing Chapter archive programme.

### ASSOCIATED EVENTS

Tuesday 20 Sept, 6.30pm  
*Teaching Migration History* –  
Panel Discussion & Launch

Monday 26 Sept, 6.30pm  
*Sound and the Archive* –  
Panel Discussion & Reception

Thursday 29 Sept, 6.30pm  
*Black Victorians* –  
CPD Event for Secondary /  
FE Teachers and Tutors

Saturday 1 Oct, 1–5pm  
*Vintage Portrait Workshop* –  
Collodion Tintypes

The Missing Chapter/Black Chronicles is presented in association with the Hulton Archive, a division of Getty.

Supported by Heritage Lottery Fund.

Established in 1988, Autograph ABP is a charity that works internationally in photography and film, cultural identity, race, representation and human rights.

[www.autograph-abp.co.uk](http://www.autograph-abp.co.uk)

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund over three years (2013–16), *The Missing Chapter* brings together a distinct body of photographic portraiture to highlight diverse 'black presences' prior to 1948, with a focus on Victorian and Edwardian Britain. Photographs are identified through new curatorial research, and by working collaboratively with national archives and collections, both public and private.

*The Missing Chapter* programme includes exhibitions and events, formal and informal learning, site-specific image projections, and the publication of a series of educational and scholarly resources in print as well as digital media.

### BLACK CHRONICLES: EXHIBITION IN A BOX and THE MISSING CHAPTER WEB APP Beta Preview

A pop up archive photography display and versatile learning tool-kit, the **Exhibition In A Box** contains thirty remarkable image panels reproduced from rare 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs portraying people of African, Caribbean and South Asian descent during the Victorian era in Britain.

The **Web App** offers online access to explore *The Missing Chapter's* image portfolio in a specially designed digital environment, including a dedicated cross-curricular teaching zone.

Developed by Autograph ABP with Bold Creative – special thanks to Aarish Sardar for further web development.

### THE AFRICAN CHOIR 1891 RE-IMAGINED PHILIP MILLER AND THUTHUKA SIBISI

In this new sound installation – a work in progress – South African composers Philip Miller and Thuthuka Sibisi re-create a 19<sup>th</sup> century performance by The African Choir as a contemporary sonic interpretation. Working with fourteen young professional singers, the composers reinvent songs based upon the original concert programmes in London during the summer of 1891.

The contemporary singers are drawn from choral groups and opera schools in South Africa; each singer corresponds with a counterpart with his or her vocal type in the original fourteen-member African Choir, who toured Britain between 1891 and 1893, performing to great acclaim and large audiences at venues such as Crystal Palace, and for Queen Victoria at Osborne House. Their repertoire was divided into two halves: one comprised Christian hymns sung in English together with popular operatic arias and choruses; the other traditional African songs.

Their portraits, first exhibited in 2014 as part of *Black Chronicles II*, had remained unseen for more than 125 years. They constitute the most comprehensive body of known photographs portraying African sitters in Victorian Britain.

### Acknowledgments

*The African Choir 1891 Re-imagined* is presented in partnership with UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies and the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Art. The project is supported by the South African Department of Arts and Culture, and Mr. Jonathan Levy.

Sound recorded and mixed by Murray Anderson and Jethro Erick Harris at Milestone Studios. Special thanks to Karen Miller and Tamar Garb.

**Photographs:** *The African Choir*, London Stereoscopic Company, 1891. Courtesy of © Hulton Archive/Getty Images.

