

STEVEN  
KASHER  
GALLERY



## 5 Exhibitions to See in February

By: Amelia Rina

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Ming Smith

Steven Kasher Gallery, 515 West 26th Street, New York  
Through February 18th, 2017

Ming Smith's photographs are often blurry, out of focus, and dark. But, in luxurious black tones, she produces moments that evoke her personal response to life, rather than a straightforward account. In the 1970s, as the only original female member of the African American photography collective Kamoinge (from the Kenyan language of Kikuyu, meaning a group of people acting together), Smith was uninhibited by stereotypical depictions of black culture. The most arresting of her abstract, sometimes mystical photographs is a portrait of the otherworldly Sun Ra, the American jazz musician, poet, and philosopher, who Smith captured in motion, with a shimmering cape floating over his shoulders as though he was wearing a galaxy. Through widely varied styles—in one image, the heads of James Baldwin and James Van Der Zee float between clouds above Harlem—Smith's photographs evoke a world that confounds and delights.