

# Photography Exhibit Shows Spirituality of Black Churches

"Come Sunday," a collection of photographs portraying the spiritual lives of black church congregations, opens Thursday, April 10, in the Juanita Kreps Gallery at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies.

The exhibit, which features 80 black-and-white prints, draws on a large body of photographs taken at black churches by New York photographer Thomas Roma. Between 1991 and 1994, Roma attended

more than 150 religious services at 52 churches in Brooklyn.

"Come Sunday: Photographs by Thomas Roma" is organized by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The Durham showing is sponsored by a grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation.

"Religion is not a common theme in contemporary art," said Peter Galassi, chief curator of photography at the Museum of Modern Art. "Roma's photographs, remarkable for their skill, are still more extraordinary for the unapologetic candor with which they embrace spiritual passion."

A free public reception will be held from 5 until 7 p.m., April 10, at the Center for Documentary Studies. The reception will feature gospel music performed by a local Durham church choir followed by a gallery talk by Roma.

Other events at the center in April include:

Stories and photographs of women living with HIV. Writer River Huston and photographer Mary Berridge, winners of the center's 1996 Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize, will present a reading and slide show based on their documentary project: "A Positive Life: Portraits of Women Living with HIV" at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

The documentarians have spent almost four years traveling across the country gathering stories about women with HIV. An AIDS activist, Huston, who is HIV positive, has lectured throughout the country on HIV/AIDS issues. Berridge is an adjunct instructor at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

A presentation of documentary projects produced by the winners of the 1996 John Hope Franklin Student Documentary Award. The presentations will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, in room 5 at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy on Duke's West Campus.

The Center for Documentary Studies is located in Lyndhurst House, 1317 West Pettigrew Street, off Swift Avenue. For more information, call (919) 660-3663.