

RISD MUSEUM

David Hartt: Stray Light, July 19, 2019-November 3, 2019

Stray Light presents various views of the former offices of Chicago's Johnson Publishing Company, famous for producing *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines, which defined African American culture in the postwar era. Designed by architect John Moutoussamy, a student of Mies Van Der Rohe, the Johnson Publishing building was erected in 1971, the first skyscraper in Chicago owned and designed by African Americans. Hartt's work, shot in the muted atmosphere immediately prior to the 2011 sale of the building, prompts consideration of the decline of the publishing industry. It also illuminates the manner in which racial pride and identity is expressed through the style of Arthur Elrod's distinctive interior design and the personal effects in the employees' workspaces.

Hartt lives and works in Philadelphia. His work has been widely exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions. He is the recipient of a United States Artists Cruz Fellowship and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award.

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

David Hartt, American, b. Canada, 1967
Stray Light, 2011
Single-channel video
Georgianna Sayles Aldrich Fund 2018.74

