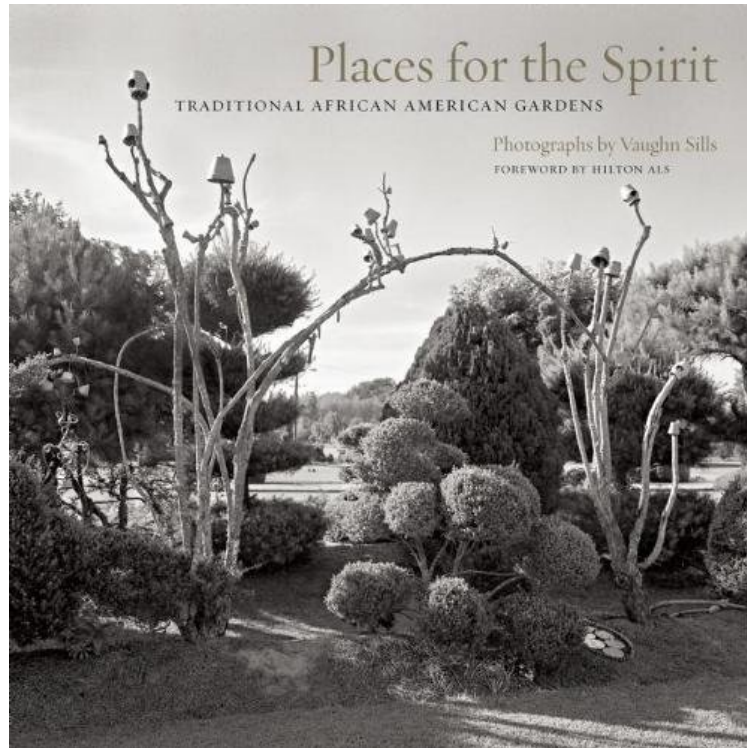


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Places for the Spirit: Traditional African American Gardens

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From Brand: Trinity University Press : Places for the Spirit: Traditional African American Gardens before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Places for the Spirit: Traditional African American Gardens:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book after viewing the photos on exhibit . . . By S. Bruce
The reproductions in this book just don't match the originals on display at the gallery (Chicago Botanic Gardens). I've found this to be the case with similar books, which serve merely as a record of the exhibition. Still, I like the art and spirit of the creators of the gardens photographed and thereby get enjoyment from the book such as it is; there is something about these humble gardens that is just so right and true. So, three stars.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By R. Ford
I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is a great addition to both my gardening and African American book collections.
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Places of the Spirit
By Jane Buysman
It is a beautiful book. However I was disappointed that it was in black and white. I hoped it would be in color

Places for the Spirit is a stunning collection of over 80 documentary photographs of African American folk gardens and their creators in the Deep South (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina). These landscapes have a unique historical significance due to the design elements and spiritual meanings that have been traced to the yards and gardens of American slaves and further back to their prior African heritage. These

deceptively casual or whimsical foliage arrangements are subtle and symbolic reminders of the divine in everyday life, the cycles of nature, and implied right and wrong ways to live. In the spirit of outsider art traditions, blues musical roots, and other such folk manifestations, these gardens have a unique aesthetic and cultural significance. Over 20 years in the making, this is the first collection of fine art photography to document this subject and, as such, it adds greatly to our understanding and appreciation of this disappearing element of African American culture.