

Roaming Charges: Visible Absences

We deal in *EJIL* with the world we live in – often with its worst and most violent pathologies, often with its most promising signs of hope for a better world. But, inevitably, since our vehicle is scholarship, we reify this world. *Roaming Charges* is designed not just to offer a moment of aesthetic relief, but to remind us of the ultimate subject of our scholarly reflections: we alternate between photos of places – the world we live in – and photos of people – who we are, the human condition. We eschew the direct programmatic photograph: people shot up; the ravages of pollution or the latest group photograph of ICJ judges.

‘Roaming’, ‘Charges’, and those irritating ‘Roaming Charges’ – was chosen because of the multiple and at times conflicting meanings, feelings and associations the words, jointly and severally, evoke and which we hope to capture in our choice of photographs. As we roam around the world we aim for images which charge us: please and challenge, even irritate, at the same time. We seek photos which have some ambiguity, are edgy and relate in an indirect way, both to the current circumstance but also to that which is, like human dignity, permanent and enduring.

Take a moment – enjoy, reflect. If you are online, pause before the next click.

Photos from our readers should be sent to managingeditor@ejil.org.

'All my life I've been expected to acknowledge the power and beauty of pictures made by white artists that only have other white people in them; I think it's only reasonable to ask other people to do the same vis-a-vis paintings that only have black figures in them. [. . .] My work is not an argument *against* anything; it is an argument *for* something else.'

*Kerry James Marshall*¹

¹ https://www.davidzwirner.com/news/kerry-james-marshall-in-conversation?utm_medium=email&utm_source=DZN

Roaming Charges: Visible Absences



© Kerry James Marshall, *Untitled* (2009). Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

