

Chris Aluka Berry (b. 1977) has been a documentary photographer in the American South for more than 20 years. He is currently based in Atlanta, Georgia. His long-form essays challenge cultural norms and racial stereotypes by exploring race, class, and faith within underrepresented communities. Being raised in the American South by a white mother and black father has greatly influenced the type of voice that he has developed and the communities that he documents. His intimate approach to visual storytelling brings him up close and personal with his subjects. Preferring to build relationships as he documents, Berry “takes up residence” in the places where the people are---immersing himself in their daily lives.

Second Chances: Josh’s Salvation

There are more than 2 million people imprisoned in the United States. Beginning in 2007, Berry spent one year documenting Mr. Reynold’s life in prison. His hope is that this project can show the humanity of the prison population and the love and empathy that can result from programs such as the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation program. Sometimes people need second chances, sometimes animals need second chances. Together, man and horse can enrich each other’s lives in profound ways.

Joshua Reynolds spent four years in the Army, then worked odd jobs as an electrical assistant. But, he regularly used Ecstasy and Crack Cocaine. It all caught up with him in 2007, when he was sentenced to prison for second degree burglary. He had stolen weapons, intending to sell them for drugs.

After several months in prison at Wateree Correctional Institution in Rembert, South Carolina, Reynolds qualified for the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation program. The program teaches Joshua the skills needed to care for retired race horses, which in return helps build his confidence and sense of empathy. In loving his favorite horses, “Little Me Too”, Joshua learns to love himself. This second chance at life is Josh’s Salvation.