



(courtesy Fifty One Fine Art Photography)

Louis Faurer, Arthur Leipzig, Ted Croner, Diane Arbus, William Klein, Bruce Davidson en Garry Winogrand.

“NEW YORK - NY”

26 January 2007 – 10 March 2007

Fifty One Fine Art Photography proudly presents the exhibition ‘NEW YORK – NY’ including the work of seven masters in photography who made New York their lifework.

After World War II, New York experienced strong social changes, which seemed to be the perfect breeding ground for a group of photographers to free themselves from traditions in photography. They asserted to the medium by bringing total renewal into the genre of documentary photography. Some of them joined what was later called “The New York School”, characterized by a social criticism on their life in the metropolis. Different from the image New York liked to spread to the world in the years 1940-1950, these photographers searched the streets for the truth behind the dynamic and prosperous look of the city. They often zoomed in on the loneliness and desolation of the habitants of the poor quarters. Their priority was not merely to observe this daily life as to give each photograph the right feeling and atmosphere.

Louis Faurer (1916-2001) is honoured for his everyday portraits of people. The abstract aesthetic of the perfectly balanced compositions, build out of shadows and reflections, was the most beloved subject of the photographer. **Arthur Leipzig (°1918)** realised that New York wasn’t al that glamorous as people wanted to believe. However, he created images that were sometimes cheerful, sometimes touching and recognizable to everyone. **Ted Croner (1922-2005)** loved to work at night. His blurry images, decorated with the bright neon lights, are very characteristic. **Diane Arbus (1923-1971)** became famous because of her photographs of freaks. Here frontal portraits, placing the viewer face to face with the subject, testify of grand tenderness. She was, however, the first to use flashlight by broad daylight which gives her images a certain sharpness and power. The debut ‘Life is Good for you in New York’ of **William Klein (° 1928)** was reviled at first. His blurry, high grained photographs made traditional photography shake to its foundations. Now the book is seen as a milestone in history of photography and Klein as one of the biggest renewers of the medium. The subjectivity in the work of Magnum photographer **Bruce Davidson (°1933)** betrays the emotional presence of the photographer in each of his projects. Davidson played with shadows, light and colours to create the right mood in each photograph. **Garry Winogrand (1928-1984)** is extraneous to the New York School but he is certainly considered a pioneer of street photography. He gave another dimension to the meaning of ‘snapshot’ by making photographs that are seemingly natural and spontaneous. Winogrand introduced full-length street portraits in which he proudly ignored rule number 1 of maintaining a straight horizon.

Simultaneously with this exhibition, the movie 'Fur', about the life and work of Diane Arbus (Nicole Kidman), will be released in European movie theaters.