

EQUINOX GALLERY  
525 Great Northern Way  
Vancouver, BC V5T 1E1

604.736.2405 t  
info@equinoxgallery.com e  
www.equinoxgallery.com w

## **PRIMARY COLOUR**

April 6th to May 11th, 2019

Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 to 4pm

----

Primary Colour is a view of early colour street photography from 1950 to 1983 with works by Fred Herzog, Vivian Maier, Gordon Parks, Helen Levitt, Harry Callahan, Ernst Haas, Saul Leiter, Joel Meyerowitz, and William Eggleston. Each of the photographers included in this exhibition have adopted and adapted the ethos of the flâneur as a wandering observer of the events of urban life. Compelled by the challenge to use colour film in their desire to observe and capture in the very same moment, the candid and striking nature of these photographs blurs the boundary between artistic expression and documentary record.

### **Harry Callahan (1912-1999)**

Born in Detroit and self-taught as a photographer, Harry Callahan found work in the Photographic Laboratories of General Motors, and in 1946 was asked to join the faculty of the New Bauhaus in Chicago. In 1949 he became chairman of the photography department, where he was widely respected in the photography community for his open mind and experimental attitude. Much of Callahan's street photographs depict the scenes and buildings of cities where he lived, displaying an acute sense of line, form, light and shadow. During his lifetime, Callahan had major retrospectives at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1976) and the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. (1996) and was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1996.

### **William Eggleston (b. 1939)**

William Eggleston was born in Memphis, Tennessee where he continues to live today. Eggleston began experimenting with colour transparency film in 1965 and has used it to document a rapidly developing suburban landscape. Over the course of nearly six decades, Eggleston has established a singular style that deftly combines vernacular subject matter with an innate and sophisticated understanding of colour, form and composition. Since the 1970s, his work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at prominent institutions worldwide, beginning with his groundbreaking show of colour photography at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1976. Eggleston's photographs are represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and many others around the world.

### **Ernst Haas (1921 – 1986)**

Ernst Haas was an Austrian-American photojournalist and colour photographer known for his use of soft focus, selective depth of field and overexposure. Beyond the physical place, person or object depicted, Haas hoped to reflect the joy of looking and of human experience. In addition to his coverage of events around the globe after World War II, Haas extensively documented the United States, and in 1953 his photographs of the streets of New York were published in Life magazine. Haas' images were the subject of the first single-artist exhibition of colour photography at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

### **Fred Herzog (b. 1930)**

Born in Germany in 1930, Fred Herzog has been taking street photographs in colour since 1953, the year after he first moved to Canada. Nearly all of Herzog's photographs were produced using Kodachrome slide film, and as such he remained virtually unknown as a photographer until 2007 when printing technology allowed him to make archival pigment prints that matched the exceptional colour and intensity of the original Kodachrome slide. Herzog has exhibited throughout Canada and Europe, including shows at the

EQUINOX GALLERY  
525 Great Northern Way  
Vancouver, BC V5T 1E1

604.736.2405 t  
info@equinoxgallery.com e  
www.equinoxgallery.com w

Audain Art Museum, Paris Photo, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, C/O Berlin, Sommerset House (UK), Vancouver Art Gallery, Haus der Photographie (Hamburg), and Laurence Miller Gallery, New York. In 2014, Herzog was awarded the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts.

### **Saul Leiter (1923 – 2013)**

Born in Pittsburgh, Saul Leiter originally moved to New York in 1946 to become a painter, but quickly became attracted to the potential of photography, taking to the streets to shoot black-and-white images. In the 1950s and '60s, Leiter became widely known as a fashion photographer and made colour photographs for his own pleasure, keeping them to himself until the 1990s. His abstract forms and radically innovative compositions have a painterly quality that stands out among the work of his New York School contemporaries. His work is represented in collections such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Whitney Museum of American Art and other prestigious collections.

### **Helen Levitt (1913 – 2009)**

Helen Levitt is renowned for her photographs of children on the streets of New York City. Her interest in photography began in 1931 when she learned darkroom techniques while working for a portrait photographer, and by age sixteen had chosen photography as her profession. Celebrated for their perceptive depiction of everyday life in New York City's close-knit neighbourhoods, Levitt's photographs create a palpable sense of place while capturing the bustle, squalor and beauty of everyday life in New York City in the 1940s and '50s. Levitt has had solo retrospective exhibitions around the world and is represented in major public collections.

### **Vivian Maier (1926 – 2009)**

Vivian Maier was an American street photographer born in New York City. Although born in the United States, it was in France that Maier spent most of her youth. Maier returned to the United States in 1951 where she took up work as a nanny and caregiver. In her leisure Maier took photography seriously, and over the course of five decades she produced an important body of black-and-white and colour images. Maier captured the spontaneity of street scenes with a precision reminiscent of Henri Cartier-Bresson, and as Joel Meyerowitz notes, her image are "suffused with the kind of human understanding, warmth and playfulness that proves she was a 'real shooter'."

### **Joel Meyerowitz (b. 1938)**

Born in New York, Joel Meyerowitz began photographing in colour in 1962 and was an early advocate of the use of colour at a time when there was significant resistance to the idea of colour photography as a serious art. He became instrumental in changing the attitude toward colour photography from one of resistance to nearly universal acceptance. Meyerowitz's photographs have appeared in over 350 exhibitions in museums and galleries around the world. He was the only photographer to gain unrestricted access to Ground Zero after 9/11, which produced a body of work that led Meyerowitz to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale for Architecture in 2002. His work is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, and many others.

### **Gordon Parks (1912 – 2006)**

Born into poverty and segregation in Kansas in 1912, Gordon Parks was drawn to photography as a young man when he saw images of migrant workers published in a magazine. After buying a camera at a pawnshop, he taught himself how to use it and found employment with the Farm Security Administration, which was then chronicling the nation's social conditions. Parks is best known for creating remarkably expressive images that consistently explored the social and economic impact of racism in the United States.