

Contact: Barbara Livenstein, Manager of Public Affairs
212-534-1672, ext. 263

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEGENDARY MAGNUM
PHOTOGRAPHERS,
AT MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK FEBRUARY 6
THROUGH MAY 23, CAPTURE 50 YEARS OF NEW YORK
CITY HISTORY**

Exhibition Dates: February 6—May 23, 2004
Press Preview: Wednesday, February 4, 10 a.m. – noon

Some 130 photographs by 20th-century masters including Eve Arnold, Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Bruce Davidson, Elliott Erwitt, and Susan Meiselas, among many others, will be on view at the Museum of the City of New York from February 6 through May 23, 2004. *Magnum's New Yorkers* will feature works by the celebrated photographers who instituted many of the traditions inherent to the medium today—icons of photojournalism who created some of the most powerful images of the last century. Ranging in date from the 1940s through 2002, and drawn from one of photography's most preeminent archives, the images on view will be intimate close-ups of New Yorkers, a collective portrait of people living in a city marked by transformation and extremes.

Susan Henshaw Jones, Director, Museum of the City of New York, commented: "These photographs are highly individual, expressive, and humanist views that depict the diversity of experience in New York City. They are also invaluable historical documents, tracing the city's journey through half a century."

That New York City is a place of great power and cultural significance would seem to be a given in photography. However, much of the work on view is the result of personal and extended documentary projects, which enabled the photographers to explore communities, subcultures, and social issues in greater depth, and to portray individuals—even the well-known—with more subtlety and nuance. From a depiction of a glamorous night of

dancing at the Savoy to a depiction of homelessness, from the corner of a graffiti-covered subway car to a lofty corner of Central Park West, the photographs on view combine documentary and aesthetic

~~-more-~~

Magnum's New Yorkers

Page 2

perspectives in an approach that has come to be identified with Magnum. Leonard Freed, Burt Glinn, Steve McCurry, Eugene Richards, Chien-Chi Chang, and Hiroji Kubota are also among the photographers whose work will be included in the exhibition.

Bob Shamis, curator of photographs at the Museum, said: "These images depict the people and life of New York City, but more than that, they evoke the feel of the city—its exuberant energy, diversity, and intensity."

Magnum Photos was established in April, 1947. Magnum photographers sought to represent history through the lenses of their personal experiences. In addition to Capa and Cartier-Bresson, the founding partners included George Rodger, and David Seymour. Its New York City office opened in 1949. The peer-selected cooperative drew concerned photojournalists who united during a time of postwar euphoria. Abroad, there was liberation from terror; in the United States, media empires burgeoned. Maintaining ownership of their own work, and able to accept assignments more selectively, the Magnum photographers were empowered to travel, work, and publish without necessarily being reliant upon or accountable to any other organization, and without having to conform to the stylistic concerns of others. Today, Magnum also maintains offices in Paris, New York, London, and Tokyo, with a current total of 62 members.

Bruce Davidson, a Magnum photographer (and New York City resident), said recently, "When I walk the streets of New York, I am a child again going to the circus. All those worlds within worlds passing before me that I want to enter—the dwarf clown, the thin man on stilts, the beautiful girl riding the elephant, and the flying trapeze artists. New York City is a menagerie under the tent of life. It is a mystical, magical, maniacal world that I must image."

Magnum's New Yorkers is made possible through the generous support of James G. Dinan; the Charina Foundation; James A. Lebenthal Family Foundation; Melvin R. Seiden; Scott L. Bok, Virginia Zabriski; Arthur Fleischer, Jr.; Caroline N. Sidnam; Arthur & Marilyn Penn Charitable Trust; and Barnabas McHenry.

The Museum plans two public programs in conjunction with ***Magnum's New Yorkers***. On Saturday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m., curator Bob Shamis will lead a gallery tour—free with Museum admission—of the exhibition. On

Saturday, February 14, at 3:00 p.m., Mary Panzer, a journalist and historian, will moderate a discussion about Magnum with member photographers Bruce Davidson and Susan Meiselas. The fee for this program will be \$5
~~-more-~~

Magnum's New Yorkers

Page 3

for Museum members and \$12 for non-members; both include Museum admission.

The Museum of the City of New York will be open on Monday, February 16 (President's Day).

#

12-09-03

Visitor Information

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.
The Museum is open on all Monday holidays including Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day.

The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

The Museum Shop is open Monday noon to 5:00 p.m.;
Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call 212-534-1672.

For guided and self-guided tours, please call 212-534-1672, ext. 206.

Location: Fifth Avenue between 103rd and 104th Streets
By bus: M1, M3, M4, M106, or M102
By subway: #2, #3, or #6 trains

The Museum of the City of New York is accessible and welcomes visitors with special needs. For more information, please call 212-534-1672, ext. 250.

www.mcny.org