



Museum of the City of New York. Gift of Joy of Giving Something, Inc., 2020.10.277.  
Courtesy of the Estate of Inge Morath

## **MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHARES LOVE LETTER TO NYC WITH “CELEBRATING THE CITY: RECENT ACQUISITIONS FROM THE JOY OF GIVING SOMETHING”**

Opening February 18<sup>th</sup>, New Photography Exhibition Features Selection of 100+ Images  
From Transformational Gift from Noted Photographic Arts Non-Profit

Exhibition includes works by Bruce Davidson, Elliott Erwitt, Robert Frank, Larry Fink, William Klein, Saul Leiter, Sylvia Plachy, Alfred Stieglitz, Rosalind Solomon, Paul Strand as well as recently acquired images by Máximo Colón, Pablo Delano, Annie Ling and An Rong Xu, Jamie Permuth, Jamel Shabazz, and more

Media Preview: February 15, 2022, 10AM-12PM

NEW YORK, NY (February 2022) – A llama in Times Square...fireworks over the Brooklyn Bridge...polar bears playing in a pool at the zoo... subways, skylines, shadows, and stolen moments... all these things and more tell the varied story of New York City, captured by the lenses of many of the medium’s greatest photographers. Now, these images will be on view as part of **“Celebrating the City: Recent Acquisitions from the Joy of Giving Something,” opening February 18<sup>th</sup> at Museum of the City of New York**. The exhibition will feature approximately 100 photographs selected from the more than 1,000 images recently gifted to the Museum by the [Joy of Giving Something](#) (JGS), a non-profit organization dedicated to the photographic arts.

“Photographs of New York are instantly recognizable and help us celebrate and elevate the many stories of our vibrant city that might otherwise go unnoticed,” says **Whitney Donhauser**, Ronay Menschel Director of Museum of the City of New York. “As we continue to emerge from the challenges of the COVID pandemic, this magnificent gift from the Joy of Giving Something dramatically advances MCNY’s already stellar 400,000+ image photography collection and gives us an even greater ability to share the stories of our beloved city and its inhabitants.”

“JGS is extremely pleased to donate a substantial group of prints from our collection to the Museum of the City of New York. Most of the work in our donation features New York as subject and it is a great match that the photographs stay in

New York to be enjoyed by audiences far and wide,” says **Jeffrey Hoone**, President of Joy of Giving Something (JGS). “New York continues to be a subject for photographic artists from around the world and JGS is proud to help continue that legacy as we support younger artists through our many different programs. We applaud the Museum for their forward-thinking programs and their commitment to preserving and celebrating New York as a vibrant subject for photographers past, present, and future.”

Devoted to the field of photography, and ever on the search for its very best practitioners, JGS founder Howard Stein never limited himself to a single genre or style. Stein began acquiring photographs in the 1980s, eventually forming one of the most comprehensive collections in private hands, spanning the 19th through the 21st centuries. His understanding of the photographic medium and discerning eye for print quality and condition yielded a remarkable collection shared through exhibition loans around the world.

With images ranging from documentary to quirky, architectural to atmospheric, “Celebrating the City” features selections from this transformative donation, which notably includes works by 30+ creators new to the MCNY collection (see list on Page 4). The exhibition presents multiple images from **Helen Levitt’s** dynamic and celebrated street photography; **Sylvia Plachy’s** playful and eccentric examination of the people, animals, and moments of NYC; and **Michael Spano’s** slice-of-life city shots spanning the 1990s and 2000s. Other key figures in 20<sup>th</sup> century photography are incorporated into the show, including **Ilse Bing, Bruce Davidson, Mitch Epstein, Elliott Erwitt, Robert Frank, William Klein, Saul Leiter, Alfred Stieglitz, Rosalind Solomon, and Paul Strand**, to name a few -- all capturing indelible, sometimes implausible, intimate, and often incredible moments of the city.

MCNY’s “Celebrating the City” is organized into 10 categories, from working, going shopping, playing, and gathering to loving, gazing, being, reflecting and building, all illustrating the universality of the city and offering the opportunity to compare how some of the best-known photographers have returned to the same subjects again and again.

Some exhibition highlights include:

- **Bruce Cratsley’s** “Brooklyn Bridge Centennial” (1983)
- **Bruce Davidson’s** “Square Riggers, South Street Seaport” (1996)
- **Elliott Erwitt’s** “New York City” (1955)
- **Larry Fink’s** “Studio 54” (1977)
- **Ken Heyman’s** “Dogs’ Last Swim in Central Park Lake, New York” (1985)
- **Philip-Lorca diCorcia’s** “Alice (Alice Rose George)” (1987)
- **Inge Morath’s** “A Llama in Times Square” (1957)
- **Sylvia Plachy’s** “Baseball Plié” (1982)

“In addition to offering glimpses of life in the city, ‘Celebrating the City’ juxtaposes various picture-making approaches, showing the different ways in which photographs are created as well as illuminating the decision-making process behind photography, collecting, and curation,” says **Sean Corcoran**, senior curator of prints and photographs, Museum of the City of New York. “We’ve paired the JGS photographs with a handful of recently acquired works --presented in the anteroom -- in an effort to tell the story of a diverse and contemporary city from a range of perspectives.”

Highlights from the exhibition’s anteroom draw from other recent acquisitions in the MCNY’s collection that demonstrate the Museum’s ongoing commitment to reflecting the diverse range of people and perspectives that make up NYC. On view: Works by **Jamel Shabazz** and **Mahtab Hussain**; **An Rong Xu** and **Annie Ling’s** photographs of contemporary life in Chinatown; a **Máximo Colón** photo taken on the Lower East Side; images from **Jamie Permut’s** YONKEROS series; and **Pablo Delano’s** photographs from Washington Heights.

#### SUPPORT:



*Celebrating the City* is made possible by the Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation.

## **ABOUT THE JGS FOUNDATION**

Joy of Giving Something, Inc. (JGS) is a New York based nonprofit organization dedicated to the photographic arts. Since its inception, works from the JGS collection have been made available as loans to major museums around the world. JGS has supported numerous emerging artists through awards, acquisitions, and book projects. JGS is now focused on expanding access to visual arts education and supporting artists in photography and related media by providing scholarships and grants to museums, schools, and community-based organizations across the country.

## **About the Museum of the City of New York**

The Museum of the City of New York fosters understanding of the distinctive nature of urban life in the world's most influential metropolis. Winner of "Best Museum" in *Time Out New York's* "Best of the City 2021" and multiple American Alliance of Museums (AAM) awards, MCNY engages visitors by celebrating, documenting, and interpreting the city's past, present, and future. To connect with the Museum's award-winning digital content, visit [www.mcny.org](http://www.mcny.org); or follow us on Instagram and Twitter at @MuseumofCityNY and on Facebook at Facebook.com/MuseumofCityNY.

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## **NEW TO THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK'S COLLECTION**

The Museum received a gift of more than 1,000 photographs from the [Joy of Giving Something](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to the photographic arts, founded by **Howard Stein**.

The works gifted to the Museum of the City of New York showcase the city. Many are contemporary photographs and more than 30 of the works are by creators new to our collection, including:

- [Ilse Bing](#)
- [Richard Benson](#)
- [Andrew Bordwin](#)
- [Carrie Boretz](#)
- [Lois Conner](#)
- [Bruce Cratsley](#)
- [Ted Croner](#)
- [Joseph Dankowski](#)
- [Jesse Diamond](#)
- [Philip-Lorca diCorcia](#)
- [Richard Ehrlich](#)
- [Mitch Epstein](#)
- [Elliott Erwitt](#)
- [Larry Fink](#)
- [Robert Frank](#)
- [Charles Harbutt](#)
- [Paul Himmel](#)
- [Peter Hujar](#)
- [Sid Kaplan](#)
- [Peter Kayafas](#)
- [Lisa Kereszi](#)
- [Andre Kertesz](#)
- [William Klein](#)
- [Max Kozloff](#)
- [Saul Leiter](#)

- [Ethan Levitas](#)
- [Helen Levitt](#)
- [Joseph Maida](#)
- [Donna McAdams](#)
- [Inge Morath](#)
- [Andu Novac](#)
- [Stuart O'Sullivan](#)
- [Gilles Peress](#)
- [Sylvia Plachy](#)
- [Eugene Richards](#)
- [Thomas Roma](#)
- [William Gordon Shields](#)
- Susan Spiller
- [Rosalind Solomon](#)
- [Louis Stettner](#)
- [Paul Strand](#)
- [Rebecca Norris Webb](#)
- [George Zimbel](#)