

For immediate release
March 21st, 2019
The Store X
is pleased to present:

The Store
X



Found:

A Harold Feinstein Exhibition

The Store X, 180 Strand, London, WC2R 1EA

15th - 19th May, 2019, and afterward
by appointment only until 26th May
Private View 6-9pm 14th May
Curated by Carrie Scott



Harold Feinstein, *Coney Island Teenagers*, 1949

The Store X is honoured to invite you to the first ever UK exhibition of legendary New York street photographer, Harold Feinstein.

In the 2015 *New York Times* obituary celebrating his life, Harold Feinstein was declared "*one of the most accomplished recorders of the American experience*", and yet much of his photography is principally unknown. That is now beginning to change. A renaissance of his remarkable work is currently underway as evidenced by the feature length documentary *Last Stop Coney Island: The Life and Photography of Harold Feinstein* which had its world premiere at DOCNYC to a sold out crowd. The film will premier in London on May 15th at Dothouse at Curzon Bloomsbury, timed to coordinate with the first ever UK exhibition of his work, *Found: A Harold Feinstein Exhibition*, curated by art historian Carrie Scott at The Store X, which opens on May 14th.

Born in Coney Island in 1931, Feinstein left school to begin photographing at the age of 15, and became one of the most prominent figures in the vanguard of the New York City street photography scene, joining the famed Photo League when he was 17. At the age of 19, Feinstein's work was acquired by Edward Steichen for the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). He was included in shows at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1954 and at the Museum of Modern Art in 1957. Feinstein also had a solo show at the legendary Helen Gee's Limelight Gallery in 1957. Despite this early success, however, Feinstein's extensive collection of classic street photography, nudes, portraits and still life has seldom been exhibited. Thanks in part to the black and white monograph, *Harold Feinstein: A Retrospective* (Nazraeli, 2012), Feinstein is today starting to receive the critical and public attention he so deserves. The Kickstarter campaign to fund the book in fact put Feinstein's work on the map for Director of *Last Stop Coney Island*, Andy Dunn, who backed the campaign and upon receiving the book years later decided a film had to be made.

Found: A Harold Feinstein Exhibition is the first exhibition to bring together vintage and contemporary silver gelatin prints, alongside exclusive film footage from *Last Stop Coney*

Island and immersive audio that includes Feinstein's voice. Through distinct bodies of work – **Coney Island, Street Photography, Nudes and Still Life** – we see the extraordinary eye of a master photographer with an uncompromising ability to capture beauty in every composition. While influenced by the likes of W. Eugene Smith and Henri Cartier-Bresson, Feinstein was not a photographer who would stand back and observe, unnoticed by his subjects, in fact, in nearly every image, Feinstein's proximity to his subject is palpably intimate. It is this physical closeness, an extension of Feinstein's empathic connection to his subjects that sets his work apart from other Street Photographers of the same period. Whether standing over a group of teenagers lying on a Coney Island beach, photographing a man smoking in a diner or a woman bathing, intimacy is the urgency in these images and compassion sits at the core of each composition. One can't help but imagine where Feinstein was standing when he took the shot. Where his contemporaries – photographers like Diane Arbus, Walker Evans and Garry Winogrand – took photographs that recorded the plight of the human condition mostly without their subjects knowing, Feinstein celebrated humanity *with* his subjects. From the glittering lights of Times Square, to the streets of Harlem; from smoke-filled coffee shops to subways; from city stoops to crowded beaches: Feinstein's desire to connect with the world around him and share the beauty he saw is evident in every composition. People stare into Feinstein's lens, eyes sparkling. Friends embrace, as if Feinstein was part of their love and admiration for one another. No one holds back. Life is vivid. And, as a result, a deep, empathetic and beautiful humanity runs through each and every image. As Feinstein himself put it, "Everywhere people live out their own personal story, yet are tied together through the universal emotions of love, loss, curiosity, humor and compassion... My street photography is a small sampling of my photographic journey bearing witness to the beauty and mystery of this human life."



Opening Hours –

Tuesday, 14th May: Private View 6pm-9pm,
RSVP Essential

Wednesday, 15th May: Open to public from 12pm - 9pm,
London Premier of Last Stop Coney Island: The Life & Photography of Harold Feinstein at Dothouse at Curzon Bloomsbury

Thursday, 16th May: 10.30am Photo London VIP event & Collectors Brunch,
Open to public from 12pm - 9pm

Friday, 17th May: Open to public from 12pm - 9pm

Saturday, 18th May: Collectors Brunch 10.30-12,
Open to public from 12pm-7.30pm

Sunday, 19th May: Open to public from 12pm - 6.30pm

Thereafter the exhibition will be open until May 26th by appointment only.

Email info@carrie-scott.com to set a viewing time.