

Photographs Vivian Maier

From Lars Oxfeldt Mortensen's collection

Opening: Friday 16.1.2015, 5-8 pm
Duration: 17.1 – 14.2. 2015

The works of acclaimed and recently discovered American photographer Vivian Maier (1926-2009) is on display at Tom Christoffersen Gallery in a small exclusive show with photographs taken between 1950 - 1970 in and around Chicago and New York. The exhibition shows glimpses of life in the big city's streets, in the parks or at the beach. The things that captured Vivian Maier's interest were both humoristic details as well as dramatic events. She often portrayed both the affluent and the poor parts of the city. We see society ladies dressed in fur and elegant dresses, next to dispossessed people sleeping on the streets, or children playing in alleys or city parks. Vivian Maier was particularly interested in reflections and her many iconic self-portraits were made through reflections in shop windows, mirrors in shops or cafes, or when her silhouette would draw a shadow on the ground - almost like a signature in the pictures that often had a different key motif.

Vivian Maier made her living as a nanny in different wealthy families in New York and Chicago from mid-1950's and four decades ahead. She always had a Rolleiflex- or Leica camera around her neck and was constantly on the move to photograph her own time. She traveled the world and photographed as far away as Yemen and Shanghai. Private, she was shy and surrounded herself with a great deal of mystery and never got married. In 2007 Vivian Maier's photographic works was discovered by coincidence when her belongings were sold at auction because of unpaid bills for storage. It was an immense collection comprising more than 120000 negatives, Super 8 and 16 mm films, various audio recordings, photographs, and a great number of undeveloped rolls of film. The compilation, organisation and digitalisation of the images are still on going but it is only a small selection carefully chosen the future oeuvre of Vivian Maier. The material that has been made available so far shows a skilled and determined photographer's portrayals of street life – work that can be compared to the likes of acclaimed photographers such as Lisette Model, Lee Friedlander, Robert Frank and Diane Arbus, all of which were Vivian Maier's contemporaries.

Major exhibitions celebrate Vivian Maier worldwide these years, documentary film portrays her amazing life and several books are published on her great photographic work. We are proud to present this exhibition in cooperation with Danish film director Lars Oxfeldt Mortensen, who was involved in developing the award-winning documentary *Finding Vivian Maier*. The exhibition consists of works from Lars Oxfeldt Mortensen's collection.