

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Museum of Modern Art affiliate
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EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE
ROBERT BERGMAN: SELECTED PORTRAITS

October 25, 2009 through January 4, 2010
Opening Day Celebration: Sunday, October 25, 2009, 12-6PM

(Long Island City, NY — August 20, 2009) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is pleased to announce *Robert Bergman: Selected Portraits*, an exhibition of twenty-four large-scale color portraits of everyday people the artist photographed on the streets of various American cities from 1985 to 1997. The exhibition will be on view in the first floor Drawing and Painting Galleries.

Using a handheld 35mm camera and precisely integrated natural lighting, Bergman explores both the poignant expressions of each individual and the formal structures of their surroundings. As art historian Meyer Schapiro wrote, “Certain photographers—Robert Frank, as well as Robert Bergman, come to mind—discover, like the poets, otherwise ignored qualities of the person and environment, hidden moments of feeling, and present them to our entranced scrutiny—for our meditation.”

Bergman’s epic series of portraits documents the physical and spiritual manifestation of Americans at the approach of the millennium. Of this series Toni Morrison has written, “Occasionally there arises an event or a moment that one knows immediately will forever mark a place in the history of artistic endeavor. Robert Bergman’s portraits represent such a moment, such an event. In all its burnished majesty his gallery refuses us unearned solace and one by one by one each photograph unveils *us*, asserting a beauty, a kind of rapture, that is as close as can be to a master template of the singularity, the community, the unextinguishable sacredness of the human race.”

Robert Bergman (b. 1944, New Orleans) now divides his time between Minnesota and New York City. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue featuring an essay by David Levi Strauss.

Robert Bergman: Selected Portraits is organized by P.S.1 Curatorial Advisor Phong Bui.

The exhibition is made possible by Alfred and Ingrid Lenz Harrison. The accompanying publication is made possible by Agnes Gund.

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Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; and the P.S.1 Annual Fund, Annual Exhibition Fund, Business Circle, and The Student Body. The P.S.1 Annual Fund is supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, David Teiger, Union Beer Distributors, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Galerie Lelong, E. William Judson, Jane K. Lombard, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc., Barbara Gladstone, Mathis Pfohl Foundation, The Herman Liebmann Foundation, Bobby Kopp + Co. Productions, and other donors.

Exhibitions at P.S.1 are made possible by the Annual Exhibition Fund with support from Kathy and Richard S. Fuld, Jr., Sheldrake Organization, The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art in honor of Alanna Heiss, Julia Stoscheck, Agnes Gund, Lawton W. Fitt and James I. McLaren Foundation, Peter Norton and the Peter Norton Family Foundation, Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis, Michel Zaleski, Jerry I. Speyer and Katherine G. Farley, Sydnie Lansing, Philip E. Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, David Teiger, and Emilio Ambasz, with additional funding from John Comfort, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman, The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art, Susan G. Jacoby, Clarissa Alcock Bronfman, Sarah-Ann and Werner H. Kramarsky, Dennis W. LaBarre, E. William Judson, A NY Thing, LLC, Louise Bourgeois Trust, Stuart Weitzman, The Student Body of P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Douglas S. Cramer, and Jeremy E. Steinke in honor of Christopher Y. Lew.

Public Programs are made possible in part by Studio in a School, The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, and Poets & Writers, Inc. through public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center's institutional archives were established with generous founding support from the Leon Levy Foundation.

Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.ps1.org • www.moma.org

Contact:

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