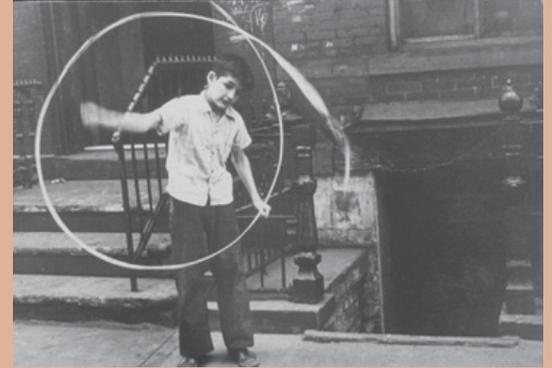


Helen Levitt: In the Street

February 6 - May 8, 2016



Helen Levitt: In the Street is a major traveling exhibition celebrating four decades of street photography by one of the genre's most acclaimed figures. From the 1930s to the 1970s, Helen Levitt portrayed everyday life in immigrant and working class neighborhoods in New York City and beyond. With a focus on children and families in such ethnically and racially diverse areas as Spanish Harlem and the Lower East Side, Levitt captured private moments full of joy, mystery, and tenderness. Heedless kids playing street games, neighbors gossiping on stoops, frazzled mothers quieting babies—the innately human scenes Levitt immortalized with her camera transcend time, place, race, and social class.

Levitt's timeless photographs continue to resonate today and serve as a reminder that art can be an active and socially-engaged tool. Her work draws attention to that which binds human beings together, regardless of social class, economic standing, or culture. Inspired by Levitt's work, the Everson has partnered with the Photography and Literacy Project at Syracuse University to engage children in the city's most underserved populations—many in nearby refugee and immigrant communities—and strengthen their reading, writing, and communication skills. Working within the city's lowest-performing schools

and in afterschool programs in community centers, mentors help students develop media projects about identity, community, and family using digital cameras and creative writing. Students learn storytelling techniques and media skills that trigger critical thinking and self-expression, building multiple literacy and self-esteem as they explore their outside world and inner selves. Just as Levitt's photographs provided a window into urban communities, the PAL project empowers students to find and create such literary and artistic expression themselves.

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