

# REBECCA LEPKOFF

## Signs of Life

May 22 – July 11, 2009

Artist Reception

Thursday, May 21, 6-8pm



Daisy Kenyon, 1947

Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of rare early work by street photographer Rebecca Lepkoff. Lepkoff's New York photographs from the 1940s and 1950s captured a special side of the city's residential neighborhoods that is disappearing today. Perhaps best known for her photographs of life on the Lower East Side, Lepkoff photographed throughout the city including doing a series she titled "Morning Rush, Midtown" which depicted the daily hustle and bustle of one of the world's busiest neighborhoods.

Rebecca Lepkoff (born 1916) bought her first camera with the money she made dancing at the World's Fair in 1939. She immediately began documenting New York street life including her own neighborhood of the Lower East Side. Under the guidance of photographer and teacher Arnold Eagle, Lepkoff joined the Photo League in 1945, where she studied with Paul Strand and Sid Grossman. The Photo League, an organization and meeting place for photographers, was dedicated to the belief that the medium could be used as an instrument for social change by documenting the lives of people and their urban conditions. In 1951 The Photo League was forced to close down when labeled "subversive" by the U.S. Department of Justice for alleged Communist ties.

After the Photo League closed Lepkoff concentrated on raising her three children. She returned to photography in the 1970's, documenting the lives of senior citizens in New Jersey with a grant from the New Jersey Council of the Arts. Lepkoff's book, "Life on the Lower East Side," was published in 2006 by Princeton Architectural Press. Her early work was included in Naomi Rosenblum's landmark exhibition and book "A History of Women Photographers." Her photographs are included in the collections of the New York Public Library and New York's Jewish Museum. Now in her 90s, Rebecca Lepkoff resides in New York.

*For further information, or to request visuals for press*

Contact Ali Price at 212 334 0010 or [ali@howardgreenberg.com](mailto:ali@howardgreenberg.com)

*Starting May 16th, the exhibition can be viewed at [www.howardgreenberg.com](http://www.howardgreenberg.com)*