

FAMILY:

Photographs from Home

Alfred Stieglitz
Edward Steichen
Robert Frank
Ralph Eugene Meatyard
Lee Friedlander
Elaine O'Neil
Virginia Beahan
Gay Block

11 March - 30 April, 2005

Opening

Thursday, 10 March 2005, 6-8 pm



New York - Howard Greenberg Gallery presents "FAMILY: Photographs from Home," featuring the work of eight twentieth century photographers who have looked to their families as subject and inspiration. These are images made with trust and generosity, revealing what are often the most personal and carefully guarded moments to illuminate shared and binding experiences. The intimacy and immediacy of these photographs results not only from living with the constant presence of a camera, becoming as familiar as the parent or spouse behind the lens, but also from the affection that fills each frame, offering us the privilege of looking through the front door and over these artists' shoulders.

The exhibition opens with a group of photographs by Robert Frank dating from the 1950s, following the early years of his marriage to his first wife Mary and the birth of their children. Made immediately preceding his epic work *The Americans*, they carry a palpable warmth, revealing the tenderness and intimacy of a young family.

Lee Friedlander has been photographing his wife and children for over forty years. Known for a rigorous formal style, and often recognized in his droll self-portraits, these most recent images speak of joy found close to home as he follows his grandchildren, camera in hand.

Other photographers have drawn more structured narratives from within their families. Ralph Eugene Meatyard employed his wife, children, and friends as models to create haunting and often surreal narratives, at times obscuring their faces behind Halloween masks, concealing their individual identities yet invigorating every gesture.

(Over please)

Over a six year period, Elaine O'Neal and her daughter Julia arranged to meet each day in their living room to pose for a portrait, creating a photographic diary that records not only daily negotiations between mother and child, but also the strength of their bond, even through the struggles of adolescence.

Landscape photographer Virginia Beahan's most recent images surround a more immediate environment, as her home shifted dramatically when she brought her mother to live with her family; in these photographs, we see Beahan's role as both the a mother of a daughter herself as well as the caretaker of an aging mother.

Gay Block's photographs are part of an extended narrative exploring the difficult and often painful relationship she had with her mother Bertha Alyce. Using her camera like a scalpel, Block uncovers the complexities of her family and childhood, and her struggle to reconcile sharply mixed feelings about her mother.

The exhibition is complimented by a selection of portraits by Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Steichen. Stieglitz's casual portrayals of his niece's family are strikingly lighthearted, filled with the expansive light of the summer sky above Lake George, New York. Steichen's portraits of his wife Dana, made in the 1920s, are more formal in character, and remarkable for their elegance.

Also on view:

Garry Winogrand: The Wedding

In 1962, the renowned street photographer Garry Winogrand agreed to photograph the wedding of a close friend. Eschewing the customary formality of portrait photographer, his "snapshots" from the reception capture the revelry of the bridal party and their guests with all of the loose energy that characterized Winogrand's style. The images in the exhibition are drawn from a unique set, and are the only known prints.

Diane Arbus: Untitled The Matthei Family

Selections from Diane Arbus' controversial photographs made at a home for the mentally disabled in New Jersey between 1969-71, observing the distanced life of its members. These images are joined by a group of portraits made as part of a private commission for the Matthei family in 1969, which have been the subject of a recent traveling exhibition. Both of these bodies of work have found a place within Arbus' extended legacy as part of her search for the common and unusual within all families.

For further information, or to request visuals for press,
contact Toby Jurovics at 212 334 0010, toby@howardgreenberg.com
Starting March 10th, the exhibition can be viewed at www.howardgreenberg.com