

JEROME LIEBLING THE GRACE OF BEING

15 June – 17 August, 2007

Reception with the Artist
Thursday, 14 June, 2007, 6-8pm



Butterfly Boy, New York City, 1949

New York - Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of photographs by award-winning filmmaker and photographer Jerome Liebling. Known as a “photographer’s photographer”, Liebling has inspired a generation of artists and filmmakers such as Ken Burns, Roger Sherman and Karen Goodman. The exhibition (**June 15 – August 17, 2007**) will encompass work that spans numerous phases of Liebling’s nearly 50 year career: *Early Minnesota*, *The Hand-Ball Players*, *The Politicians*, *Slaughterhouse*, *Rooftops*, and black-and-white and color portraits.

An influential teacher and documentarian, Liebling has always said that “everyday people” are central to his photography. From his early days on the streets of New York City as a member of the Photo League, to his photographs of politicians on the campaign trail and workers in Minnesota slaughterhouses, Liebling portrays his subjects with respect, dignity and a sense of humanity. His photographs go beyond the convention of social documentary and reveal the photographer’s concern for the struggles people face in day to day life. Whether it is the little boy staring stoned-face into the camera (*Butterfly Boy, New York City, 1949*) or the saunter of the aged hand-ball players in Miami (*Handball Players, Miami Beach, 1975*), Liebling uncovers the core strength that is inherent in each individual. He applies these same principles in his teaching and imparts in his students the power of a single image. In turn, Liebling’s former students from University of Minnesota and Hampshire College revere him and often refer to him as the single most defining voice in their creative development.

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When discussing what pushed him to make pictures in the first place, Liebling has said “For me photography had an immediacy...I was trying to resolve certain issues. What was fair or unfair about how people lived and how they had to live? I thought the most penetrating and most immediate way to get to some of those questions was through photography.”

Jerome Liebling was born in New York City in 1924. In the 1940s he studied under Paul Strand and joined New York's famed Photo League in 1947. During this time, he became active in film production and began working as a documentary filmmaker. While a professor of film and photography at the University of Massachusetts (1949-1969), he began a longtime collaborative relationship with filmmaker Allen Downs. Over the course of 20 years, they produced the award-winning films *Pow Wow*, *The Tree is Dead* and *The Old Men*. He has received numerous awards and grants including two Guggenheim Fellowships, National Endowment for the Arts Photographic Survey Grant, and a fellowship from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts. Liebling's work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Fogg Museum, Cambridge, MA; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, and the National Gallery of Ottawa, Canada. Several books have been published about Liebling's work including Liebling: the people, yes, 1995; Jerome Liebling: The Minnesota Photographs, 1984; Jerome Liebling Photographs, 1982; and Jerome Liebling: Photographs 1947-1977, 1978. He is currently professor emeritus at Hampshire College and lives in Amherst, Massachusetts.



For further information, or to request visuals for press,
contact Ali Price at 212 334 0010 or ali@howardgreenberg.com
Starting June 14th, the exhibition can be viewed at www.howardgreenberg.com