

Photo Libris

An Exhibition of Important Books and Photographs

5 May – 17 June, 2006



New York - Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition "Photo Libris"; focusing on important photographic books from the personal collections of Edward Steichen, William Klein, Bruce Davidson, Eikoh Hosoe, Gilles Peress, Dave Heath, Bill Burke and FSA photographers. Recent publications such as Andrew Roth's *The Book of 101 Books: Seminal Photographic Books of the Twentieth Century*, Martin Parr's two volume *The Photobook: A History* and the Hasselblad Center's *The Open Book* have shed new light on the importance and influence of photographic books throughout the history of the medium. This exhibition provides the opportunity to view vintage and early photographs, from a selection of the 20th century's most significant photographers, alongside these artists' seminal books. A limited number of these first edition books signed by the photographer will be available for sale.

(EDWARD STEICHEN). SANDBERG, CARL. *Steichen the Photographer*. This was the first comprehensive book of Steichen's work. Produced in 1929 with his brother-in-law Carl Sandburg, this volume was made in a limited edition of 925. It is signed by Steichen and Sandburg and illustrated with 49 photogravure portraits and still lifes by the photographer. The gallery has rarely seen copies with the fragile glassine dust jacket and black slipcase.

WILLIAM KLEIN. *Tokyo*. In the early 1960s the acclaimed New York School photographer William Klein turned his attention to the streets of Tokyo. Like his landmark 1956 book *New York, Tokyo* is filled with images in Klein's quintessentially strong contrasts and gritty style. Klein's distinct and unconventional book design was immediately controversial yet it made a lasting impression on future generations of photographers and designers.

EIKOH HOSOE. *Embrace*. Beginning in 1959 the Japanese photographer Eikoh Hosoe began his exploration of the human form. Within just over a decade, Hosoe had created four groundbreaking books. Starting with *Man Woman* (1959), followed by *Barakei [Ordeal By Roses]* (1963), *Kamaitachi* (1969) and *Embrace* (1971), design and layout play critical roles in each of Hosoe's books. The gallery will feature *Embrace*, a series of sublime abstractions of the body.

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DAVE HEATH. *A Dialogue With Solitude*. Published in 1965 this book quickly went out of print and has since been highly sought after by collectors. Heath's eloquent sequence of 82 black and white images - simultaneously about despair and hope - with an introduction by Robert Frank, is a landmark book combining the strength of images and text. As an exception in this exhibition, we will display the first edition and offer for sale a limited number of out-of-print second edition copies, produced in 2000. This edition was made from the original maquette and closely follows Heath's original design.

BRUCE DAVIDSON. *East 100th Street*. In 1966 Bruce Davidson received an NEA grant and spent the next two years photographing the inhabitants of a square block in Harlem. Through an extraordinary series of portraits he brought great dignity and respect to his subjects. This body of work was published in 1970 as *East 100th Street* and exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art that same year. This book has long been recognized as one of the most influential of its genre.

A Vision Shared: A Classic Portrait of America and Its People 1935-1943. Edited by Hank O'Neal and published in 1976, this is still considered one of the most comprehensive and well thought out books about the highly fertile period of Depression Era photography. The compendium includes the work of many of the twentieth century's most recognized documentary photographers such as Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Ben Shahn, Marion Post Wolcott, Arthur Rothstein, Russell Lee, and Carl Mydans.

GILLES PERESS. *Telex Iran: In the Name of Revolution*. In 1979-1980 the photojournalist Gilles Peress spent five weeks documenting the political and social unrest between Iran and the United States during the hostage crisis at the American Embassy in Teheran. The images are not captioned but punctuated by excerpts of telexes sent back and forth between Peress in Iran and his Magnum Agency offices in New York and Paris. The dynamic layout and sequencing of this 1983 publication was considered a new benchmark in the art of photo-journalistic books.

BILL BURKE. *I Want To Take Picture*. Reproductions of tickets, foreign currency, newspaper articles and hand written notes alongside the photographs transform this book into a personal journal. A skilled and dedicated team successfully overcame the difficulties faced in producing a book of this complexity before the use of the computer in 1987. This book deftly captures Burke's experiences and sights on his visits to Southeast Asia.

The range of work represented in "Photo Libris" aims to illustrate the impact of the photographically illustrated book for the medium of photography as well as for popular culture in the 20th century. The exhibition will include several of the most challenging books of the genre, such as *Telex Iran* and *Embrace* alongside classic works like *Steichen The Photographer* and Hank O'Neal's *A Vision Shared*. Together these volumes and the images they include will present a strong overview of the fundamental importance of the printed book to our understanding and appreciation of photography as a medium of beauty, power and change.

For further information, or to request visuals for press, contact Parker Stephenson at 212 334 0010 or parker@howardgreenberg.com Starting May 5th, the exhibition can be viewed at www.howardgreenberg.com