



HOWARD GREENBERG GALLERY

For Immediate Release

**Ed van der Elsken
“Love” & Other Stories
Howard Greenberg Gallery
March 22 – May 5, 2018**



Vali Myers in Saint Germain des Pres, Paris, 1951

Gelatin silver print; printed c.1980

Image size: 10 1/4 x 10 3/8 inches Paper size: 14 x 11 inches

NEW YORK – An exhibition of work by Ed van der Elsken, known as the “enfant terrible” of Dutch photography, will be on view at Howard Greenberg Gallery from March 22 through May 5, 2018. “*Love*” & *Other Stories* will focus on the celebrated street photographer’s work from the 1950s and 60s documenting the social culture around him in Amsterdam, Paris, and Tokyo. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, March 22, from 6-8 p.m.

With a confident, gritty, and unconventional style, van der Elsken’s confrontational portraits of young love, alienation, and counterculture bohemian life paved the way for late 20th century photographers such as Larry Clark, Nan Goldin, and Wolfgang Tillmans. He is best known for his iconic photography book, *Love on the Left Bank*, 1954, acclaimed for expanding the boundaries of documentary photography. His work was most recently seen last year in a retrospective exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, which traveled to the Jeu de Paume in Paris and the Fundación Mapfre in Madrid.

Ed van der Elsken (1925-1990) was “a man who would have liked to have transplanted a camera into his head to permanently record the world around him” noted Beatrix Ruf, the director of the Stedelijk Museum and Marta Gili, the director of the Jeu de Paume wrote in his retrospective exhibition catalogue.

“He was always looking for what he called ‘my king of people,’” said Hripsime Visser, the curator of the exhibition at the Stedelijk. “And what he meant by that was not the beautiful people and not the famous people but the people who tried to live or to survive.”

About Ed van der Elsken

One of the leading street photographers of the 20th century, Ed van der Elsken began shooting photography on the streets of Amsterdam after WWII, inspired in part by the publication of Weegee’s *Naked City* in 1945. He moved to Paris in 1950 where he worked in the darkroom at the Magnum Photos agency, printing photographs for Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Capa. In Paris he encountered the bohemian society of Saint-Germain-des-Prés and its bitter post-war malaise, and met his first wife, photographer Ata Kando. In 1953, his photographs were selected for two exhibitions by Edward Steichen, the curator of photography at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, whom he met in Paris. Steichen encouraged van der Elsken to create his groundbreaking photo novel, *Love on the Left Bank*, 1956, which is now a classic. He went on to publish more than 20 photography books.

In 1960, he and his second wife, Gerda van der Veen sold all of their possessions to travel around the world for over a year. The book that followed, *Sweet Life*, 1966, is considered one of his major accomplishments. In 1971, van der Elsken and his third wife, the photographer Anneke Hilhorst, settled on a farm in Edam in the Netherlands. Van der Elsken's work has been widely shown at contemporary art museums throughout the world. Recent solo and group shows were held at the Museum Boerhaave, Leiden, Netherlands, 2014; Stadsarchief, Amsterdam, 2014; Netherlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam, 2010; Foam, Amsterdam, 2005; The Metropolitan Museum, Tokyo, 2003; and The Palazzina di Giardini, Modena, 2002.

About Howard Greenberg Gallery

Since its inception over 35 years ago, Howard Greenberg Gallery has built a vast and ever-changing collection of some of the most important photographs in the medium. The Gallery's collection acts as a living history of photography, offering genres and styles from Pictorialism to Modernism, in addition to contemporary photography and images conceived for industry, advertising, and fashion. Howard Greenberg Gallery is located at 41 East 57th Street, Suite 1406, New York. The gallery exhibits at The ADAA Art Show, The Armory Show, The Photography Show presented by AIPAD, New York, Photo London, Art Basel, Paris Photo, and Art Basel Miami Beach. For more information, contact 212-334-0010 or info@howardgreenberg.com or visit www.howardgreenberg.com.

###

Press Contact:

Nicole Straus Public Relations

Nicole Straus, 631-369-2188, 917-744-1040, nicole@nicolestraspr.com

Margery Newman, 212-475-0252, MargeryNewman@gmail.com