



MEDIA RELEASE

HELEN LEVITT

MAY 28 - JULY 25, 1993

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2 - 5 PM

At Presentation House Gallery is a retrospective exhibition of the works of photographer, HELEN LEVITT. Considered by many to be one of the greatest living photographers in the U.S., Levitt is best known for her perceptive depictions of street life in New York City. She began taking photographs during the Depression and continues to actively explore the medium. Film was her primary interest throughout the fifties and she was also one of the first artists to seriously investigate colour photography. The exhibition spans her 50-year career and includes a remarkable film, *In the Street*, (released in 1952) made with James Agee and Janice Loeb. Levitt's primary subject has been everyday street life, especially the uninhibited play of children. Using a 35mm camera, she catches the expressive language of unguarded gestures and responses. For Levitt, a casual encounter is a lyrical, poetic moment full of mystery.

Although Helen Levitt has received museum attention, beginning with her first solo show at the Museum of Modern Art in 1943, this travelling exhibition is her first retrospective. Together with the accompanying full-colour catalogue this is the first critical study of her work. Its only Canadian stop is at Presentation House Gallery.

Helen Levitt is made possible by THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Funding in Vancouver is from the Canada Council Exhibition Assistance Program.

Gallery Hours: Wed.- Sun., 12-5 pm, Thurs. 12-9 pm
Contact: Diane Evans, tel: 986-1351

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