

TICHÝ

November 18, 2006 – January 14, 2007

Opening reception, November 17, 8 pm

"If you want to be famous, you have to do something worse than anybody else."

Miroslav Tichý

Presentation House Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of the work of Czech photographer Miroslav Tichý, the artist's first solo exhibition in a public gallery outside of Europe. A recluse, Tichý was almost unknown prior to his inclusion in the 2004 Seville Biennial. In 2005, the Kunsthaus Zurich produced a major retrospective and publication, and his work has since enjoyed increasing attention and acclaim.

Born in 1926, Tichý studied at the Academy of Art in Prague and was a painter until taking up photography. From the 1960s to the 1980s, he shot hundreds of images daily from handmade cameras inventively cobbled together from scavenged materials such as old tins, toilet rolls, plastic drain pipes and cigarette boxes, with lenses cut from Plexiglas ground with sandpapers and polished with toothpaste and ashes. From such clumsy instruments emerge surprisingly beautiful results, the imperfections from his improvised equipment creating impressionistic, poetic effects.

Tichý's primary subjects are women in the streets of his small hometown Kyjov in Moravia. Often barely visible, the spectral figures in his photographs appear dreamlike, and their luminous bodies suggest the transience of physical beauty. Disregarding the rules of conventional photography, Tichý's snapshots are taken quickly and at odd angles. He speaks of photography as "painting with light", and adds "the mistake is a part of it, it is poetry...and for that you need a bad camera."

The exhibition features 120 photographs as well as Tichý's handmade camera equipment. The documentary film, "Miroslav Tichý: Tarzan Retired," will run continuously in the gallery. Publications will be available in the bookstore.

Media contact: Diane Evans, 604-986-1351, devans@presentationhousegall.com

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 12 – 5pm, Thursday 12 – 8pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday