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Don Donaghy Vintage Photographs

October 27 - November 25, 2006

Opening reception: Friday, October 27, 6 - 8 p.m.

"Don Donaghy's photographs of the early 1960s are among the most beautiful images made in the history of American photography." Jane Livingston, ***The New York School Photographs: 1936-1963***, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1962

The Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present ***Don Donaghy Vintage Photographs***, an exhibition of vintage prints of New York and Philadelphia taken in the early 1960s by one of most rarely seen photographers associated with the New York School. Donaghy was featured alongside Diane Arbus, Richard Avedon and Bruce Davidson in the Corcoran Gallery of Art exhibition *The New York School of Photographs 1935-1963, Part III*, curated by Jane Livingston. Nazraeli Press will release the first monograph devoted to Donaghy's work in Fall 2007.

Although the subjects of Donaghy's street photographs range from groups of men to road surfaces, mirrors, windows and parade streamers, all of the images reveal an intense scrutiny of light and form. In addition, areas of deep black and halos of glowing light lend the images a sense of heightened reality. As Jane Livingston has written, "For Donaghy...pictures found in the city become vehicles for a series of complex meditations on the self. Seldom in the history of the medium has an artist so purely and plainly understood the capacity of photography to use place as metaphor and repository of individual consciousness."

Born in Philadelphia in 1936 to a family of factory workers, Donaghy attended the Philadelphia College of Art. Moving to New York in 1963, he was befriended by Robert Frank who, upon seeing his work, provided him with job contacts, a place to live and a darkroom. In an interview with Livingston, Donaghy described his working method: "I would photograph in the morning, just like one would be involved in a meditation practice. It was almost religious...I never used a meter. I had one paper, one film, one lens and one camera...and if a photograph had to be cropped, there was something wrong with it, and you had to just put it aside..."

Donaghy's photographs are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art.



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