

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AWARDS \$1,000 PHOTOGRAPHY FELLOWSHIP

The Museum of Modern Art has awarded Helen Levitt of New York City its first fellowship, which is to be devoted exclusively to photography. The Museum announces that Miss Levitt won the award over forty-nine other contestants who made application between November 1, 1945 and February 1, 1946. Of the fifty applicants, eight were women and forty-two men, with fifteen states represented and one entry from Alaska.

Miss Levitt was chosen for the \$1,000 award by a Board of Selectors composed of Edward Weston, photographer; Willard D. Morgan, editor and publisher; and Beaumont Newhall, the Museum's Curator of Photography. The project to be carried out under the Fellowship is the continuation of work already begun by Miss Levitt. She will do this work in New York. In her application Miss Levitt wrote:

"In general I have been attempting to accomplish the following: to seize upon and record those apparently accidental disarrangements that nevertheless and in seeming contradiction provide a more intense apperception of reality. A city of this size and varied character constantly forces into the open material for my camera; for instance the games of children, with their uninhibited and astounding improvisations; and the sudden nuances that reveal deep repressions of the unyoung."

Helen Levitt was born in New York City. She started photographing in 1936. Harlem, with its mixture of races-- Negroes, gypsies, Latins--is where she has found much of her most vivid action. She developed a sure technique for using the miniature camera so that her subjects are not aware that they are being photographed. In 1941, when she went to Mexico for a few months, she found most of her material in Tacubaya, a suburb of Mexico City.

An exhibition of Miss Levitt's photographs of children was held by the Museum of Modern Art in 1943, and she is represented in the Museum's Photography Collection.