

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART INVITES PUBLIC TO JOIN IN PHOTOGRAPHIC CELEBRATION OF NEW YORK CITY

Exhibition Brings Together Works from the Museum's Collection, Photographs by Ordinary New Yorkers and Visitors, and a Creative Response to the Events of September 11

Life of the City

Photographs Accepted at MoMA beginning February 1, 2002

Exhibition on View from February 28 to May 21, 2002

WHAT: *Life of the City*—an exhibition opening February 28, 2002 at The Museum of Modern Art—is both a tribute to New York City and an exploration of photography's role in shaping a community. The first of three components presents more than 150 outstanding New York photographs from the Museum's collection. The second component is a revolving display of photographs contributed by New Yorkers and others—amateurs and professionals alike—to express their relationships to the city. Completing the exhibition is a digital display of the thousands of photographs assembled by *Here is New York*, an extraordinary photographic initiative created in response to the events of September 11. *Life of the City* is organized by the curatorial staff of the Museum's Department of Photography with the generous cooperation of the organizers of *Here is New York*.

Life of the City celebrates New York. By bringing together landmarks of modern art and ordinary snapshots, the exhibition also probes a common denominator of photography. "To make a photograph is to point out something that matters," says Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, Department of Photography. "That is just as true whether the photographer is an accomplished artist or an ordinary citizen. The exhibition is an experiment. We hope it will tell us how people feel about the city. Perhaps it will also teach us something about photography."

For more than a century, photographers have loved to make pictures of and in New York City. They have captured the vitality of the city—its energy, ambition, turmoil, and grit—and its beauty. Selected to stress the richness and diversity of this collective achievement, the first component of *Life of the City* includes works by dozens of photographers, including Berenice Abbott, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, Lee Friedlander, Helen Levitt, Irving Penn, Cindy Sherman, Edward Steichen, Alfred Stieglitz, James Van Der Zee, Weegee, and Garry Winogrand.

On the opposite walls of the gallery, informally mounted with pushpins and regularly refreshed to make room for recent arrivals, is a display of photographs contributed by New Yorkers and visitors to the city. Each person is invited to contribute one photograph that expresses his or her relationship to New York City. Conditions of participation are detailed below.

Here is New York: A Democracy of Photographs was initiated by Alice Rose George, Gilles Peress, Michael Shulan, and Charles Traub. On September 28, 2001, in a vacant store in Soho, they began collecting photographs of the events of September 11 and its aftermath. The pictures were scanned into a computer database, from which volunteers could make inkjet prints for display and sale at \$25 each. The ever-mounting proceeds contribute to the 9/11 Children's Aid Fund. *Here is New York* rapidly became a place where New Yorkers could come together in a time of distress. Its growing collection of thousands of photographs will be displayed digitally in *Life of the City*. The presentation of *Here is New York* is made possible by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

WHEN: Submissions will only be accepted in person at the Museum during public hours from February 1 through May 17, 2002. The exhibition will be on view from February 28 through May 21, 2002. Contributors' photographs will be rotated several times throughout the exhibition in order to accommodate as many submissions as possible.

HOW: Each contributor may submit one unmounted photograph, color or black and white, 16 x 20 inches or smaller, by bringing it to the Museum's lobby during public hours. The Museum is not able to accept digital art or submissions by mail or through the MoMA Web site. Photographs will not be labeled in the exhibition and will not be returned, but the Museum will do its best to display every picture it receives, at least for a short time.

CONTACT: The public may call 212/ 708-9400, and press 7 to hear a recorded message with more information on how to submit photographs.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:

1. The photograph may not be larger than 16 x 20 inches and should not be mounted, matted or framed.
2. The contributor must deliver his or her photograph in person to MoMA during public hours: 10:30–5:45 daily; 10:30–8:15 Friday; closed Wednesday. Contributions submitted by mail or e-mail will not be accepted or returned.
3. The contributor must provide his or her name and address and sign a form agreeing to the conditions of exhibition. Contributors under the age of 18 must have the approval of a parent or guardian.
4. MoMA hopes to display every photograph that it receives, at least for a short period of time, but it cannot guarantee that every picture will be shown, nor can it inform contributors when

their pictures might be on view. MoMA reserves the right not to display photographs for any reason, in its sole discretion.

5. The contributor grants MoMA the right to reproduce his or her photograph in any form or medium, including the Internet, and to grant that right to others in order to publicize the exhibition or MoMA and its programs.
6. The contributor will not be identified when the photograph is displayed or when it is reproduced by MoMA or others.
7. The contributor understands and acknowledges that MoMA will not return the photograph to the contributor. MoMA may retain or dispose of the photograph at its discretion.
8. The photograph will be affixed to the gallery wall with pushpins, or by other similar means, in MoMA's sole discretion.

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