

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF QUEENS BY RUDY BURCKHARDT TAKEN IN THE 1940s
ON VIEW IN ONE OF FIVE OPENING EXHIBITIONS AT MoMA QNS****Two Rare Albums Composed by Burckhardt Brought Together Publicly for the First Time*****A Walk through Astoria and Other Places in Queens: Photographs by Rudy Burckhardt*,
an Inaugural Exhibition at MoMA QNS, is on View from June 29 to November 4, 2002**

NEW YORK, JUNE 2002—Two previously unpublished albums of photographs taken in Queens—made in the early 1940s by Swiss-born photographer and filmmaker Rudy Burckhardt (1914–1999)—are brought together publicly for the first time in this exhibition. *An Afternoon in Astoria* (1940) and *A Walk through Astoria and Other Places in Queens* (1943) present photographs that are both uncelebrated and unforgettable within a delicately directed sequence, evoking the intersection of photography and filmmaking in Burckhardt's work. Burckhardt's affection for Queens and its inhabitants is evident, yet his artistic sophistication steers clear of sentimentality. The exhibition is organized by Sarah Hermanson Meister, Associate Curator, Research and Collections, Department of Photography.

Thirty-three pages from the two albums will be on view, revealing the simple, understated beauty of Burckhardt's work as well as his talent for orchestrating the size and placement of his still photographs to create narrative scenes. The photographs, all untitled, are dry-mounted onto neutral gray board and bound together—the overall effect is modest and personal.

The poet and dance critic Edwin Denby was a lifelong friend of Burckhardt's; inspired by his photographs, he wrote a number of sonnets to accompany them. Five of these poems are pasted into the album *A Walk through Astoria and Other Places in Queens* and are also included in the exhibition, reproduced alongside the photographs.

The Museum purchased *An Afternoon in Astoria* from Burckhardt in 1993. On the occasion of this exhibition and in celebration of the opening of MoMA QNS, the Museum has published the album, bringing it to an audience beyond the photographer, his family, and his friends for the first time.

About the Curator

Sarah Hermanson Meister, organizer of the exhibition, is Associate Curator, Research and Collections, in the Department of Photography. Meister joined the Museum in 1994 and organized *The Observer: Henri Cartier-Bresson after the War* as part of MoMA2000, and *Open Shutter* (ongoing), an artist's project with German photographer Michael Wesely.

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Publication

An Afternoon in Astoria is available from The MoMA Store, QNS. Price: \$18.95

11¼ x 8½", 32 pages, 35 black-and-white illustrations, essay by Sarah Hermanson Meister

More than 60 years after its creation, *An Afternoon in Astoria* is now made available to an audience beyond the photographer, his family, and his friends. Printed to capture the unassuming nature of the original album, with its careful, filmic sequencing of photographs mounted on neutral gray board, this volume celebrates a long-ago afternoon spent in the borough of Queens, the temporary new home of The Museum of Modern Art, New York. *An Afternoon in Astoria* is distributed in North America by D.A.P. This publication is supported by a generous grant from Adam Bartos.

Family Programs

Family Art Workshop: My New York

A special two-part workshop for children ages five to ten and their adult companions. The first week, families view the exhibition *A Walk through Astoria and Other Places in Queens: Photographs by Rudy Burckhardt* and then head outside to create their own images of the neighborhood surrounding MoMA QNS. The following week, families meet at a branch of the Queens Borough Public Library, where they will learn how to bind books, creating personal albums for their pictures of Queens. (All materials are provided.) The program takes place over two consecutive Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., and is then repeated. Sign up for one pair of dates only. Admission is free. For further information on Family Programs, please call 212/708-9805. Preregistration is required, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Part I August 8 (at MoMA QNS)

Part II August 15 (at Queens Borough Public Library—Sunnyside Branch)

Part I August 22 (at MoMA QNS)

Part II August 29 (at Queens Borough Public Library—Corona Branch)

Sponsorship

This exhibition is generously supported by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc. in honor of Agnes Gund. Additional funding is provided by the Robert and Joyce Menschel Family Foundation.

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