

PRESS RELEASE

DAVE HEATH

Alone, together

Exhibition from 2 March to 6 May 2023



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
New York City, 1960

© Dave Heath / courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery & Howard Greenberg Gallery

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Exhibition from 2 March to 6 May 2023

For its spring 2023 programme, Galerie Miranda is delighted to present an exhibition of vintage photographs by Dave Heath (1931-2016, US/Canada), the first European gallery exhibition of Dave Heath's work. Entitled 'Alone, together', the exhibition at Galerie Miranda presents emblematic works that express Heath's central themes of loneliness and alienation in modern society.

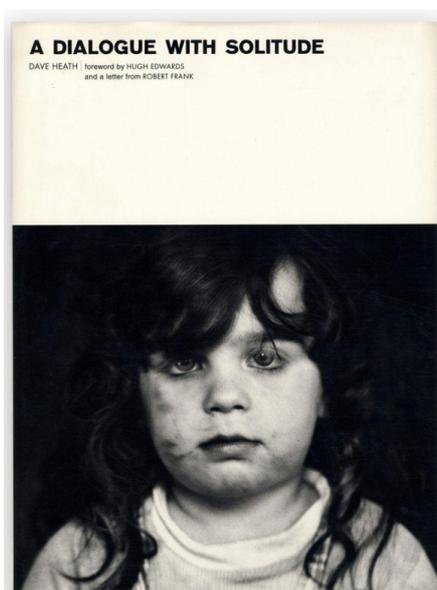
Influenced by W. Eugene Smith, in whose workshops he participated, as well as the photographers of the Chicago School including Aaron Siskind and Harry Callahan, Dave Heath worked mainly on the streets while living in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York, seeking to capture the fractures and growing unease in booming American post-war society, prior to the rise of the civil rights movement and opposition to the Vietnam War.

His seminal publication *A Dialogue with Solitude* was conceived in 1961 and finally published in 1965 after difficulty in finding a publisher, then reprinted in 2000 with a preface by Robert Frank. The book stunned with its emotional potency, thanks to Heath's sensitive translation of an intimate experience of the world, something lived and felt: tension in the city streets, between the constrained proximity of bodies and the isolation of individuals in the crowd, who fill his frame with their 'absent presence'. Heath photographed strangers of all class and generation; riding the train, watching other passers by or just staring pensively into the distance, lost in thought. In his own words, Heath "endeavoured to convey not a sense of futility and despair, but an acceptance of life's tragic aspects." He also captured glimmers of joy and tenderness that intersect the series like brilliant rays of sunshine.

Primarily self-taught, Dave Heath made his first living as a photography assistant in commercial studios and earned acclaim as a darkroom printer: first while living in Chicago, beginning in 1955, then in New York City, by 1957, where he lived until the mid-1960s before embarking on a teaching career. After 1968, Dave Heath stopped working with B&W photography and devoted his time to teaching (in particular at Ryerson University Toronto – now Toronto Metropolitan University) in Canada, where he later became a citizen and died in 2016.

The selection at Galerie Miranda focuses on Heath's tightly cropped portraits and duo compositions, with signature highly contrasted vintage artist prints, all made between 1959 and 1966.

Exhibition organised in friendly collaboration with Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto and Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York



DAVE HEATH

(b.1931, Philadelphia, USA - d. 2016, Toronto, Canada)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Abandoned by his parents at a young age, Dave Heath lived until his teens in a series of foster homes and, finally, an orphanage. Without family, he was nonetheless raised in the Jewish tradition, according to his mother's origins, which provided him with a sense of community in an otherwise lonely childhood. Early on, Heath decided that being an artist would be the best way to experience and define his place within the world.

In May 1947, Heath came across Ralph Crane's photo-essay in LIFE Magazine called "Bad Boy's Life". Struck by the emotional power contained within the images, Heath decided that he wanted to become a photographer and, using the orphanage's darkroom, he began to explore photographic process. Unable, for administrative reasons, to enrol in a technical school, he dropped out of high school and became a darkroom printer at a commercial laboratory. A book by John Whiting called *Photography is a Language* guided him through the technical aspect of the medium but it was Heath's passionate personal study of history, art and the role of artists, that structured his vision.

Heath began photographing during the late 1940s. He briefly studied art at the Philadelphia College of Art and the Institute of Design in Chicago, supporting himself as assistant to commercial photographers. By 1959, Heath was in New York where he attended workshops hosted by celebrated photojournalist W. Eugene Smith. Heath's subsequent work was highly influenced by Smith's humanistic tone and emphasis on the photographic narrative.

As a street photographer, Heath observed passers-by to capture moments of intense private reflection in the solitude of public space, his compositions typically tightly framed and charged with emotion. Early on, he understood the capacity of a sequence of photographs to evoke the complexity of his story, versus that of a single image, and at the age of 21 he composed his first maquette, named '3'. In the following years, Heath worked his photographs into elaborate sequences, culminating in 1961's *A Dialogue With Solitude*, published in 1965. A moving series of black and white images addressing contemporary isolation, *A Dialogue With Solitude* was exhibited in 1963 at the Art Institute of Chicago and at George Eastman House. The series brought recognition to Dave Heath who was subsequently awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships.

In the 1970s, after moving to Toronto, Heath began experimenting with Polaroid technology and produced a series of narrative works under the title "Songs of Innocence". In addition, Heath mounted thematic slide presentations using vernacular photographs, and including "Le Grand album ordinaire" (1973) and "Ars Moriendi" (1980). In 1981 the National Gallery of Canada mounted an exhibition of the two series "A Dialogue with Solitude and Songs of Innocence IV". From 1970 until 1997, Heath taught photography at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly known as Ryerson University). Dave Heath died in Toronto on his 85th birthday in 2016.

Dave Heath has been exhibited across the United States and Canada including group and solo exhibitions at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; San Francisco Cameraclub, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York; Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto; and Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa. His photographs are represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; International Museum of Photography, New York; George Eastman House, Rochester, New York; The Getty, Los Angeles; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; among other institutions.

PRESS VISUALS with captions and credits:



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
New York City, c. 1960

Vintage gelatin silver print (c. 1962)
5 x 6 inch (12.70 x 15.24 cm) image
8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm) paper
Titled, dated, and annotated, in pencil, au verso

Tirage argentique d'époque (c. 1962)
5 x 6 inch (12.70 x 15.24 cm) image
8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm) feuille
Intitulé, daté et annoté par l'artiste en crayon au verso



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
Dayton, Ohio, June 1966

Vintage gelatin silver print
4 3/4 x 7 inch (12.07 x 17.78 cm) image
5 x 8 inch (12,70 x 20.32 cm) paper
Printed in September 1966

Titled and dated with artist and proof print stamps, in ink, on verso

Tirage argentique d'époque
Image 4 3/4 x 7 inch (12.07 x 17.78 cm)
Feuille 5 x 8 inch (12,70 x 20.32 cm)
Tirage de Septembre 1965

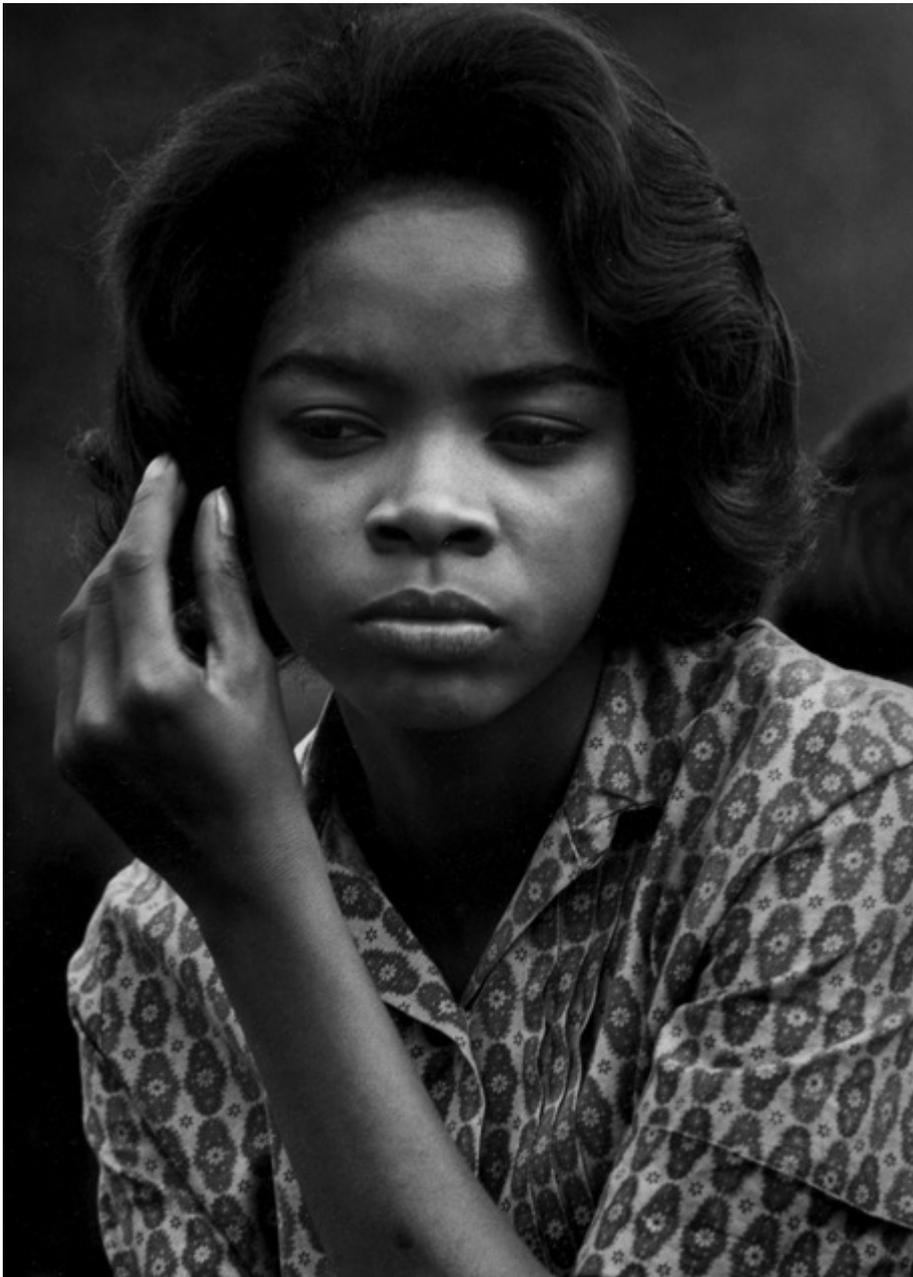
Intitulé et daté, avec cachet de l'artiste en encre au verso



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
Washington Square, New York City, 1960

Vintage gelatin silver print (1960)
8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm) paper
Signed, titled and dated, in pencil, au verso

Tirage argentique d'époque (1960)
8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm) feuille
Signé, intitulé et daté par l'artiste en crayon au verso



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
Washington Square, New York City, c. 1960

Vintage gelatin silver print (c. 1960) mounted to period board

7 x 9 3/4 inch (17.78 x 24.77 cm) print

11 x 14 inch (27.94 x 35.56 cm) board

Signed, titled, and dated, in pencil, au verso

Tirage argentique d'époque (c. 1960) monté sur carton d'époque

7 x 9 3/4 inch (17.78 x 24.77 cm) tirage

11 x 14 inch (27.94 x 35.56 cm) montage

Signé, intitulé et daté par l'artiste en crayon au verso



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
New York City (MoMA), April 1966

Vintage gelatin silver print
4 3/4 x 7 inch (12.07 x 17.78 cm) image
5 x 8 inch (12.70 x 20.32 cm) paper

Printed in August, 1966

Titled and dated, with artist and proof print stamps, in ink, au verso

Tirage argentique d'époque
Image 6 x 7 3/4 inch (15.24 x 19.69 cm)
Feuille 8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm)

Tiré au mois d'août 1966

Intitulé et daté en encre avec cachet de l'artiste au verso



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)
Washington Square, New York City, 1960

Vintage gelatin silver print (c.1960)
7 1/2 x 9 inch (19.05 x 22.86 cm) image
8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm) paper
Signed, titled and dated by the artist in pencil on verso

Tirage argentique d'époque (c. 1960)
7 1/2 x 9 inch (19.05 x 22.86 cm) image
8 x 10 inch (20.32 x 25.40 cm) feuille
Signé, intitulé et daté par l'artiste en crayon au verso



DAVE HEATH (1931-2016)

*(Image from "Seven Photographers" at Judson Gallery, NYC), Unknown
From the exhibition "Seven Photographers" at Judson Gallery, NYC, May 1962*

Vintage gelatin silver print flush mounted to period board

5 1/2 x 7 1/2 inch (13.97 x 19.05 cm)

Signed in pencil on verso

Tirage argentique d'époque monté sur carton

5 1/2 x 7 1/2 inch (13.97 x 19.05 cm)

Signé par l'artiste en crayon au verso

DAVE HEATH

(b. 1931, Philadelphia, USA - d. 2016, Toronto, Canada)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Dave Heath: Alone, Together, Galerie Miranda, Paris, France
 2021 Dave Heath: On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth – Capture, WAAP, Vancouver
 2019 Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
 Dave Heath: Dialogues with Solitudes, The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK
 2018 Dave Heath: Dialogues with Solitudes, Le Bal, Paris, France
 2016 Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
 2015 Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
 Dave Heath, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY
 2007 Currents, HP Garcia Gallery, New York
 2006 Dave Heath: 1960s, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto
 2002 Dave Heath, Hereford Photography Festival, Hereford, England
 2001 Dave Heath, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York
 2000 Dave Heath: 1940s to 1960s, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto
 1999 Dave Heath: Vintage Photographs, Barry Singer Gallery, Petaluma, CA
 1997 A Dialogue With Solitude, Simon Lowinsky Gallery, New York
 1994 A Dialogue With Solitude, The Minneapolis Art Institute
 1989 Lesley Walker: A Collaborative Portrayal, Ryerson Bond Street Gallery, Toronto
 1988 Dave Heath, Work from the 50s and 60s, Photofind Gallery, New York
 Le Plaisir de Voir; La Passion du Regard: Photographs 1963-67, 1983-88, Spectrum Gallery, Rochester, NY
 A Dialogue With Solitude, The Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College, Chicago
 A Dialogue With Solitude, Stephen Cohen Gallery, Los Angeles
 1985 Dew World, or, Dancing with Frenzy before God, Ryerson Bond Street Gallery, Toronto
 1983 Dew World, or Dancing with Frenzy before God, Red Eye Gallery, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
 1981 Songs of Innocence III, Harbourfront, Toronto
 Songs of Innocence IV, A Dialogue With Solitude, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
 1979 Songs of Innocence II, Walter J. Phillips Gallery, Banff
 1968 Dave Heath, Phoenix College Library, Phoenix
 Dave Heath, Focus Gallery, San Francisco
 1965 Work in Progress, Westbank Gallery, Minneapolis
 Neither Peace Nor War, Edgecliff Academy of Fine Arts, Cincinnati
 1964 Dave Heath: Recent Photographs, Heliography Gallery, New York
 A Dialogue With Solitude, Judson Memorial Church, New York
 A Dialogue With Solitude, The Village Camera Club, New York
 1963 A Dialogue With Solitude, Art Institute of Chicago
 A Dialogue With Solitude, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
 1961 Dave Heath, Image Gallery, New York
 1958 Neither Peace Nor War, 7 Arts Coffee Gallery, New York

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Counterpoints: Photography Through the Lens of Toronto Collections, University of Toronto Art Centre, Toronto, ON
 2015 20th Anniversary, A Group Exhibition Celebrating 20 Years, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto
 2012 1955: A Group Show, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto
 2010 Street Seen: The Psychological Gesture in American Photography, 1940-1959, Milwaukee Art Museum
 1999 Wonderland, Noorderlicht, The Netherlands
 1994 The Family, Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography
 1993 Magicians of Light, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
 1990 Street Engagements, Social Landscape Photography of the 60s, George Eastman House, Rochester
 1989 The Snapshot/Family Album, Artscourt, Ottawa
 1978 Mirrors and Windows: American Photography Since 1960, Museum of Modern Art, New York
 1976 The UCLA Collection of Contemporary American Photographs, Frederick S. Wright Art Gallery, UCLA
 1974 Ryerson: A Community of Photographers, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
 Photography in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
 1970 Contemporary Photography: A Sensitive View, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
 1968 Permanent Exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, New York
 Contemporary Photographs, Dickson Art Center, University of California at Los Angeles
 1967 Contemporary Photography Since 1950, George Eastman House, Rochester
 Photography in the Twentieth Century, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

- 1966 American Photography: The Sixties, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Contemporary Photographers II, George Eastman House, Rochester
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellows in Photography, Philadelphia College of Art
- 1965 Photography in America 1850 - 1965, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven
Photographs from the George Eastman House Collection, New York World's Fair
Third Annual Exhibition of the Heliographers' Association, Lever House, New York
- 1964 Lever House II: 100 Photographs at Lever House by the Association of Heliographers, Lever House, New York
Recent Acquisitions, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1963 A Bid for Space IV, Museum of Modern Art, New York
Photography 63: An International Exhibition, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
- 1962 7 Photographers, Judson Hall Gallery, Judson Memorial Church, New York
- 1959 New York Public Library, Hudson Park Branch, New York

AWARDS

- 1964 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship
1963 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Dave Heath, One Brief Moment, Stanley/Barker, London, England
2018 Dave Heath, Dialogue with Solitude, Le Bal/Steidl, Paris/Germany
2016 Washington Square, Dave Heath, Stanley/Barker, London, England
2015 Keith F. Davis, Multitude Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, Yale University Press, New Haven and London
- 2000 Dave Heath, A Dialogue with Solitude, Lumiere Press, Toronto
2007 Dave Heath's Art Show, Lumiere Press, Toronto and New York
2004 Michael Torosian. Korea, Lumiere Press, Toronto and New York
1988 Michael Torosian. Extempore, Lumiere Press, Toronto and New York
1965 Dave Heath, A Dialogue with Solitude, Community Press, New York

COLLECTIONS

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, University of Texas, Fort Worth, TX
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa, ON
George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA
International Museum of Photography, New York, NY
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO

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