

ARLENE GOTTFRIED

BACALAITOS AND FIREWORKS

ESPACE II

OPENING ON JANUARY 19 FROM 6 TO 9
JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 25, 2017

From Wednesday to Saturday, 2-7 pm and by appointment



© Arlene Gottfried. Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie

Arlene Gottfried's photographic work "Bacalaitos and Fireworks" documents the Puerto Rican community of her native New York. For forty years, she was a frequent part of that community, which saw her beginnings in photography and which in some ways became a second family to her over the years. This work in colour shows some of the same qualities of observation as her series "Sometimes Overwhelming" with its detached gaze that is both empathetic and tinged with humour. These photographs are directly in line with the works of Bruce Wrighton, Tom Arndt and Homer Sykes whom we champion at our gallery. The prints on display are exceptional quality period Cibachrome. It is thanks to Laurence Cornet's involvement that we have now been able to dedicate a second exhibit to Arlene Gottfried.

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Les Douches la Galerie

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PRESS RELEASE

From my window on New York City's Lower East Side, I could look out and see the Puerto Rican culture I encountered over 30 years earlier, around the same time I began photographing. One night I heard a street vendor on the corner of Avenue C and East 3rd Street calling « bacalaitos and fireworks », *bacalaitos*, a fried cod fish indigenous to Puerto Rico, and fireworks, for the Fourth of July weekend. This juxtaposition became etched in my mind - representative of an immigrant population on the streets of America.

The wave of Puerto Rican immigration to America began in the 1950s, with individuals seeking the promise of a better life. The incoming families moved into many different urban areas including the Brooklyn neighborhood where I grew up. I took to the streets with my friends and neighbors, where I learned to dance salsa and speak some Spanish, and when I picked up a camera, my friends in the neighborhood became my subjects.

My involvement with the Latino Community has intensified over the years and continues to be very personally important. The work collected here stands as witness to the negative effects of poverty, revealing the pain and alienation, neglect, unexpected pregnancy, single motherhood, drug addiction, crime, incarceration, and the extremely high mortality rate among young people affecting the Puerto Rican community in New York City.

However, this work also shows the spirit of a people with a powerful passion for life.

Those who survive the ghetto rely on a vibrant and intimate community to help overcome the obstacles and the struggles of everyday living.

Arlene Gottfried

SELECTION OF WORKS

© Arlene Gottfried. Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie

El Cotorrito, 1980
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 16 x 20 inches



Chihuahuas, Central Park, 1985
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 11 x 14 inches



Summer Afternoon, 1985
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 11 x 14 inches



El Pico, 1981
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 11 x 14 inches



Loss, 1990
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 11 x 14 inches



Trampoline, 1984
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 11 x 14 inches



Miss Yauco, 1981
Cibachrome, vintage print
Print size: 11 x 14 inches



BIOGRAPHY

Arlene Gottfried, born in Brooklyn, graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, and worked as a photographer at an ad agency before freelancing for top publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Fortune*, *Life*, and *The Independent* in London.

Her first photographs are of life on the streets, picturing her friends, relatives, and neighbors of the ethnically diverse area of Brooklyn she lives in. The photographs from the 1970s and 80s document a part of New York City that no longer exists, a rough environment where she gravitates towards individuals with unique characteristics and large personalities. She goes to festivals, block parties, and all the parades – Gay Pride, St. Patrick’s Day, Puerto Rican Day, and the early Halloween parade. She returns to the beaches of her childhood, Coney Island and Brighton Beach, photographs the Only nude bay in New York, Riis Beach’s Bay One, and also clubs and disco that had a sense of wild and free self-expression in a world before the AIDS epidemic.

Gottfried has exhibited at the Leica Gallery in New York and in Tokyo, and at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., among others. Her photographs can be found in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, The New York Public Library, and the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Berenice Abbott International Competition of Women’s Documentary Photography. Gottfried is the author of *Bacalaitos & Fireworks* (powerHouse Books, 2011), *Sometimes Overwhelming* (powerHouse Books, 2008), *Midnight* (powerHouse Books, 2003) and *The Eternal Light* (Dewi Lewis Publishing, 1999). A lecturer and a teacher, Gottfried lives and works in New York City.

RESUME

SOLO SHOWS (SELECTION)

- 2016 "Sometimes Overwhelming" Les Douches la Galerie, Paris
Hardhitta Gallery, Los Angeles
"Bacalaitos & Fireworks" Daniel Cooney Fine Arts
- 2015 "These Days" Hardhitta Gallery, Cologne, Germany.
- 2014 "Sometimes Overwhelming" Daniel Cooney Fine Art, New York, NY.
- 2009 "Bitter Sweet" Soho Photo New York, NY.
- 2008 "Bitter Sweet" Alice Austen House
- 2006 "Midnight" BCA Gallery The Gatehouse, Bedford, England.
- 2005 "Midnight" Space Gallery London
"Midnight" Internationale Fototage, Mannheim, Germany.
- 2003 "The Eternal Light" Associazione Culturale Magister Ludi , Milano.
"The Eternal Light"& Midnight, Baldwin Art Galleries, Tenn.
"The Eternal Light" Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis, Mo.
- 2002 "The Eternal Light" Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA
- 2001 "The Eternal Light," Leica Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.
- 1999 "The Eternal Light," Leica Gallery, New York, NY.
- 1998 "The Eternal Light," Maison Valdotaïne de Photographie, Aosta, Italia.
"One Woman Show," York College, Jamaica, NY.
- 1997 "The Eternal Light," Musee Arthur Batut, Labrugiere, France.
- 1996 "The Eternal Light," Il Diaframma Galleria, Milan, Italy.
- 1995 "The Eternal Light," FNAC Galeries Photo, Montparnasse, Paris, France.
- 1994 Centro Colombo Americano, Medellin, Columbia.
- 1993 "The Eternal Light," Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida.
- 1991 "Bacalaitos and Fireworks," Union Square Gallery, New York, NY.
- 1990 Guta de Carvalho, Lisbon, Portugal.
Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, New York, NY.
- 1983 "Puerto Rico," Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY.
Midtown Y Gallery, New York, NY.
- 1980 "Portraits," Alternative Museum, New York, NY.
- 1977 "Coney Island," Foto Gallery, New York, NY.

GROUP SHOWS (SELECTION)

- 2016 "Paris Photo" Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2015 "Westbeth Artists Open Studios Tour", New York, New York, NY.
"New York" Les Douches La Galerie, Paris, France.
"We Live in Brooklyn, Baby" Photoville, Brooklyn, New York, NY
- 2014 Slide Luck Alice Austen House, Staten Island, New York, NY.
- 2013 "East Village, Our Village" The Lower East Side Club Clamp Art New York, NY.
"The Fence at Photoville" Brooklyn, NY Boston, MA
"A Gathering Of Images" Leica Gallery
"Brooklyn Half Marathon" United Photo Industries, Dumbo, Brooklyn
"Street Photography 2013" Soho Photo
- 2012 "Central Park", Leica Gallery
- 2008 "Divas", Robert V. Fullerton art Museum
- 2007 "Acts of Faith", Noorderlicht, The Netherlands.

- "Midtown Y", New York Public Library.,
 "One on One", Minnesota Center for Photography, Minneapolis, MN.
 "70's Disco", powerHouse Arena, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2006 "Images of Color", Bellevue Hospital Center, NYC.
 "Salon Exhibition", Bellevue Hospital Center, NYC.
 "Holiday Exhibition", Galerie Lichtblick, Cologne Germany.
- 2003 "Night Life New York", Tanqueray Ten-NYFA.
- 2001 "Game Face," Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
- 2000 "Women in Documentary Photography," Springfield Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.
 "Dancing Through Time," Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy.
 "New York Now 2000," The Museum of the City of New York.
- 1999 "The Power of the Photograph," Hudson Guild, New York, NY.
- 1998 "A Summer Wedding," Leica Gallery, New York, NY.
 "Inside These Walls," Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas.
- 1997 "Living for the City," Parsons School of Design, New York, NY.
- 1992 "Snapshots," FNAC Galeries Photo, Paris, France.
 "Bacalaitos and Fireworks," Centro de Estudios de Fotografos, Vigo, Spain.
- 1989 "Women Photographers: New York/Tokyo," Nikon House, New York,
- 1983 "New York at Night," Department of Cultural Affairs, New York, NY.
- 1980-82 "Inside Out Self Beyond Likeness," Newport Harbor Art Museum,
- 1982 "Portraiture in Light," Rheinisches Landes Museum, Bonn, Germany.
 Cafeteria Show, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 "Mommie", powerHouse Books, New York.
- 2014 "Her Villages", Album, Metropolitan Section, N.Y. Times.
- 2011 "Bacalaitos & Fireworks ", powerHouse Books, New York.
- 2008 "Sometimes Overwhelming ", powerHouse Books, New York.
 "International Photo Magazine Edition 7 "
- 2007 "Nash Editions Photography and the Art of Digital Printing", Nash Editions.
- 2006 The New Yorker Magazine, New York, NY.
- 2000-05 Newsweek, New York, NY & Tokyo, Japan., Arabic
- 2004 New York Magazine, New York, NY. 1972.
- 2003 "Midnight", powerHouse Books, New York.
- 2002 "The Spirit of Family, " Al & Tipper Gore , Henry Holt, New York.
- 2000 American Photography 16, New York, NY.
 Della Repubblica, Milano, Italy.
- 1999 "The Eternal Light", Dewi Lewis Publishing, Manchester, England .
- 1996-98 DoubleTake, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1992-98 The Observer, London, England.
- 1988-97 Life Magazine, New York, NY.
- 1994 People, New York, NY. 1994
 "Gods Yes is Louder than My No"
 Popular Photography, New York, NY.
- 1993 Photo District News, New York, NY.
 L'Uomo, Italy, Milano.
- 1992 Fotopractica, Italy.
 Leica Fotografie International, Germany.
 Meaning of Life, Time/ Life Books,

- 1991 London Sunday Telegraph Magazine, London, England.
La Fotografia, Barcelona, Spain.
London Sunday Telegraph Magazine, London, England.
- 1990 Parade, New York, NY.
- 1987 Mothers and Daughters, Aperture,
- 1986 The Americas Review, Arte Publico Press, Houston, Texas.
- 1977 The Family of Children, Ridge Press, New York, NY.
- 1992-93-99 The Independent Magazine, London, England.

COLLECTIONS

- Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX.
- Jorge Paiva private collector, Brazil
- Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania,
- Lehigh University, Pennsylvania
- The Jewish Museum, New York, NY.
- Maison Valdotaine de Photographie, Aosta, Italia.
- Musee Arthur Batut, Labrugiere, France.
- The New York Public Library, New York, NY.
- FNAC Galeries Photo, Paris, France.
- Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY.
- Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida.
- Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France.
- The New York Public Library, New York, NY.
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas.
- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France.
- Johnson & Johnson, New Jersey.
- Chase Manhattan Banks, New York, NY.
- Private collections

AWARDS

- 2011 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Artist Summer Institute
- 2001 The Manhattan Community Arts Fund - Lower Manhattan Cultural Council,
Berenice Abott International Competition of Womens Documentary
- 2008 Hasselblad Masters Finalist,
- 2002 American Photograpy 1984
- 2000 Photography, Purchase Award 2000,
- 1999-2000 Alfred Eisenstaedt Awards for Magazine Photography, finalist
- 1994 Maine Photographic Workshop, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship,
- 1984 Excellence in Photojournalism, Society of Newspaper Design
- 1982 Creative Artists Public Service Award Fellowship