

February 5, 2011

MUSEUM GOTTA SEE 'UM



Leo Rubinfien, Tokyo – At Shibuya Station 2002. Archival pigment print, from the series 'Wounded Cities.'

By Susan Cohn
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The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University presents two exhibitions of photography. "In a New York Minute: Photographs by Helen Levitt" and "Paths through the Global City: Photographs by Leo Rubinfien."

"In a New York Minute" includes 55 photographs, 41 in black and white and 11 in color, selected by Levitt as some of the most important images of her career. Levitt (1913–2009), who grew up in Brooklyn, dropped out of high school and taught herself photography while working for a commercial photographer. Fortune magazine published her work in its July 1939 issue on New York City. Two decades later, Levitt turned to color photography, one of the first important artists to use this medium. Levitt also produced films, and *In the Street*, directed and edited by Levitt and released in 1953, runs continuously in the exhibition.

Photographer and author Rubinfien, who was born in Chicago and grew up in the Midwest and Japan, describes himself as an "insatiable traveler," and his early work was characterized by an attention to what would later be referred to as "globalization." The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art exhibited works from his latest publication, *Wounded Cities*, a response to the tragedy of 9/11. "Paths through the Global City" presents 30 black-and-white and color photographs drawn from the Cantor Center's collection and lent by the artist.

Hilarie Faberman, Ph.D., the Cantor Arts Center's curator of modern and contemporary art, said, "These images by

Levitt are icons of the spontaneity and eccentricity of the New York City streets. Rubinfien's work reveals the poetry of urban life, especially the street. Although the two exhibitions are separate and distinct, commonality resides in the photographers' attraction to the urban scene and in the spontaneity of their work. Rubinfien's and Levitt's works, presented in tandem, underscore changes in urban life and documentary photography over the last 60 years."

The Cantor Arts Center is located on the Stanford campus, off Palm Drive at Museum Way. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday until 12:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. "In a New York Minute: Photographs by Helen Levitt" and "Paths through the Global City: Photographs by Leo Rubinfien" continue through May 1. Admission is free. For more information call 723-4177 or visit museum.stanford.edu.

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) recognizes Black History Month through many events, including A Tribute to Charlie Parker with the Jetta Martin Dance Company, Sunday, Feb. 6 at 2 p.m.; a film screening and performance, Robert Moses' *Kin*, Saturday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.; and Jazz in the Gallery with the Berkeley Jazzschool faculty member Jaz Sawyer, Sunday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. Free with MoAD admission. MoAD showcases the history, art and the cultural richness that resulted from the dispersal of Africans throughout the African Diaspora. 685 Mission St. (at Third Street), San Francisco. For more information call

731-3333 or visit www.moadd.org.

MUSEUM

Continued from page 20

(415) 358-7200 or visit www.moadd.org.

The Museum of Craft and Design (MCD)'s newest pop-up museum exhibition, "Crafting Architecture: Concept, Sketch, Model," runs from Feb. 16 to May 29 at 201 Third St. in the heart of San Francisco's museum district. The exhibition displays handmade and digitally fabricated architectural models and mockups from Bay Area architects and landscape architects that provide insight into the role of craft in architectural design. The public is invited to the free opening reception on Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information call (415) 773-0303 or e-mail info@sfmcd.org.

From Feb. 17 to 27, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents "Around the World in 33 Films: The Jeonju Digital Project," the entire 11-year catalog of South Korea's Jeonju Digital Project, a series of 30-minute commissioned films by directors including Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Pedro Costa, Naomi Kawase, Bong Joon-Ho and James Benning. These films, which together constitute a snapshot of world cinema, are rarely screened in the U.S. 701 Mission St., San Francisco. \$5 regular; \$5 students, seniors, teachers and YBCA members. For more information call (415) 978-2787 or visit ybcac.org.

See MUSEUM, Page 22