

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Where Art Inspires and Transforms

ON LOCATION:

Women Photographers From the
Hofstra University Museum Collection



January 14-June 27, 2008

Sally Gall
Monadnock, 1990
(from the *Selected Landscapes*
portfolio, c.1997)
Gelatin silver print
15 1/8 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.10

David Filderman Gallery

Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, Ninth Floor, South Campus

Curated by

Karen Albert, Assistant Director of Exhibitions and Collections

Andrea Donley, Museum Education and Information Services Coordinator

What influences a photographer's choice of location?

Photographers capture the world on film, either in their everyday environment or traveling the world searching for images. This exhibition from the Hofstra University Museum's permanent collection includes works by six renowned and prestigious American photographers. These women were, and continue to be, pioneers in a male-dominated field. These artists/photographers made deliberate choices about locations, that would define the scope and content of their work.

Berenice Abbott
Downtown Skyport, August 12, 1936
Gelatin silver print
23 x 18 in.
Gift of Mr. Lazarus Weiner
HU 84.24

Diane Arbus
*A Young Brooklyn Family Going
For a Sunday Outing, NYC*, 1966
Gelatin silver print
15 x 14 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Steven Yager
HU 89.37

Mary Ellen Mark
Las Vegas, 1991
(from the *In America* portfolio,
c.1992)
Gelatin silver print
10 3/8 x 10 3/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 93.17.6

Marilyn Bridges
Machu Picchu, Peru 1989
(from the *Heightened Perspectives*
portfolio, c.1990)
Gelatin silver print
14 3/4 x 18 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 95.14.2

Erica Lennard
Marly-le-Roi, France, 1980
(from the *Erica Lennard: Selected
Images* portfolio, c. 2000)
Gelatin silver print
12 1/4 x 18 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 2002.5.1

Sally Gall
Monadnock, 1990
(from the *Selected Landscapes*
portfolio, c.1997)
Gelatin silver print
15 1/8 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.10

Exploring one's environment and country of origin

Some of the photographers decided to explore their local environments. **Berenice Abbott** (1898-1991) was known for her black-and-white scenes that celebrated the architecture and urban scene of New York City in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1935, Abbott was hired by the Federal Art Project (FAP) as a project supervisor for the "Changing New York" project, in which she documented the landscape of the transforming city. **Diane Arbus** (1923-1971) was a photojournalist who focused on societal outsiders. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, her chosen location was exclusively New York City. Her photos appeared in *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, and *Harper's Bazaar* magazines, among others. **Mary Ellen Mark** (b.1940) as a documentary photographer whose empathetic and penetrating vision of life in America in the 1980s has received much praise and controversy. She was recently voted the "Most Influential Woman Photographer of All Time" by *American Photo* magazine.

Sites ancient and modern

Three photographers from this exhibition travel the world capturing images from the landscapes of Europe, Asia, South America and the United States. **Marilyn Bridges** (b. 1948) is one of the world's foremost aerial and landscape photographers. She photographically captures well-known ancient and modern sites, with the hopes of giving the viewer a fresh perspective. Her photographs have appeared in major magazines, including *Vanity Fair*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Life*, *Archaeology*, *Smithsonian* and *The New York Times*. **Erica Lennard** (b. 1950) is one of today's pre-eminent photographers of gardens. While she began her career as a commercial and fashion photographer for clients such as *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, *Interview* and *Rolling Stone*, her quest for beauty has taken her to the gardens of Europe and Asia. **Sally Gall** (b. 1956) earned her reputation as a landscape photographer who captures the mystery and wonder of her locations. She is an editorial, commercial and fine arts photographer for numerous publications including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Travel + Leisure Magazine* and *Esquire*.





Downtown Skyport, August 12, 1936
 Gelatin silver print
 23 x 18 in.
 Gift of Mr. Lazarus Weiner
 HU 84.24

BERENICE ABBOTT

(American, 1898-1991)

Berenice Abbott once said, “The challenge for me has first been to see things as they are, whether a portrait, a city street or a bouncing ball. In a word, I have tried to be objective.” Her photographs in this exhibition document the cityscape, allowing us to see New York City at a specific moment in time through her camera lens.

Abbott was born in Ohio in 1898, and attended Ohio State University. She moved to New York City in 1917, with the intention of studying journalism at Columbia University, but eventually decided to study sculpture and painting. In 1921, she moved to Paris to study with sculptor Emile Antoine Bourdelle. First working as a darkroom assistant to the surrealist artist Man Ray, Abbott opened her own portrait studio in 1926. That same year, she had her first solo exhibition. Abbott discovered the work of photographer Eugène Atget, and upon his death, acquired his archives and thereafter promoted his work.

Abbott returned to New York City and worked as an independent documentary and portrait photographer, occasionally accepting commissions from *Fortune* and other magazines. As Atget had documented the changing city of Paris, Abbott photographed the transforming landscape of New York City, celebrating the architecture and urban scene. Her best-known work is a series for the Federal Art Project (under the Works Progress Administration), a documentation of Manhattan during the 1930s, titled *Changing New York* (1939). Other major projects included various series’ depicting scientific theories of

physics, rural California, and U.S. Route 1 from Maine to Florida. Aside from spending the 1920s in Paris, New York City was Abbott’s home until she settled in Maine in 1968. Abbott continued working there until her death in 1991.

During her remarkable career, Abbott was also influential as a teacher, author and inventor. She established the photography program at the New School for Social Research in New York, and taught there from 1934 to 1958. She published numerous articles and books, including the seminal work *Guide to Better Photography* in 1941. She also received four U.S. patents for photographic devices.

Internationally renowned, Abbott’s photographs have been displayed in major exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art; International Center of Photography; Whitney Museum of American Art; The New York Public Library; The Art Institute of Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and The National Gallery of Canada. Her works are in permanent collections at The Museum of Modern Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art; International Museum of Photography and Film at the George Eastman House; The Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.

DIANE ARBUS

(American, 1923-1971)

Diane Arbus once said, “My favorite thing is to go where I’ve never been.” New York was her lifelong home and the primary source of her subjects and inspiration. Arbus aspired to look at the familiar in a new way, and conversely, to reveal the familiar in the seemingly different. Her subjects (children, carnival performers, nudists, middle-class families, transvestites, people on the street and eccentrics) consciously look directly at the camera. They are posed and formal, and the photographer remains detached from her subjects.

Diane Arbus (née Nemerov) was born in 1923 in New York City. At age 18 she married Allan Arbus and, in partnership with her husband, worked in the fashion industry as photographers. In the 1940s, Arbus began taking photographs and studied with Berenice Abbott. She left the fashion photography business in 1956 to focus on her own interests in photography. Her professional shift was followed in 1959 by a marital separation. The end of her marriage coincided with her rise in prominence as a photographer. Most influential to her photographic growth, she studied under the Austrian-American photographer Lisette Model, who encouraged Arbus to push further into her thematic interest in the unusual, and to master the technical aspects of photography. Soon after, she began to devote herself to documentary work, receiving Guggenheim Fellowships in 1963 and 1966. During the 1960s, Arbus taught photography at Parsons The New School for Design, Rhode Island School of Design, and Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

Since 1960, her portraits and photo essays have been published in magazines such as *Esquire*, *Harper’s Bazaar* and *The New York Times Magazine*, (London). While her photographs received critical acclaim and attention causing controversy during her lifetime, they were not widely exhibited. Arbus’ work was shown in the *New Documents* exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art in 1967, along with the work of two other photographers.

Since her suicide in 1971, her reputation has continued to grow, along with her influence on the next generation of photographers. A major retrospective exhibition of her work was presented at The Museum of Modern Art in 1972, after which it traveled across North America. In 1972, Arbus was also the first American photographer to be exhibited at the Venice Biennale. Posthumously, three monographs of her photographs were published. Her photographs are in the permanent collections of numerous museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and The Art Institute of Chicago. Recently, in 2003, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art originated the traveling exhibition *Diane Arbus: Revelations*, the most comprehensive survey of her work to date.



A Young Brooklyn Family Going For a Sunday Outing, NYC, 1966
Gelatin silver print
15 x 14 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Steven Yager
HU 89.37



Machu Picchu, Peru, 1989
 (from the *Heightened Perspectives* portfolio, c.1990)
 Gelatin silver print
 14 3/4 x 18 3/4 in.
 Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
 HU 95.14.2

MARILYN BRIDGES

(American, born 1948)

The photographs of Marilyn Bridges function as art, information, personal expression and documentation. For the past decade, Bridges has combined photography with her passion for flying, in order to capture aerial landscapes which depict monuments and markings of ancient and modern civilizations. Ancient or contemporary, Bridges' landscapes serve the dual role of interpreting the power of extraordinary sites, and creating visual records that may prove to be the only means of preserving these sites against the eroding elements of time and neglect.

Many of the earliest earth works photographed by Bridges are impossible to decipher from the ground. By legend, they were not built to be seen by the makers, but by the gods. Others are the result of ritualistic acts, meant to forge a connection with the earth. These sites are mysterious places whose purpose and meaning we may

never know. Others are monuments to the divinity of kings and the power of nations, built to impress and inspire the earthbound. In the contemporary rural landscape, Bridges depicts the timeless acts of farming and grazing. When photographing our cities, Bridges gives them a majestic monumentality that connects them with the architectural achievements of ancient times.

Bridges' work itself is about time, both geological and human. Through her photographs, she sketches the history of mankind. Like an archaeologist, she attempts to define a culture through the traces that remain. Bridges prefers the light of early morning or late afternoon, when the sun creates long and distinctive shadows.

Marilyn Bridges was born in New Jersey in 1948. She received both a B.F.A. in photography in 1979, and an M.F.A. in 1981, from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Her personal work has been shown in more than 300 exhibitions worldwide, and is included in more than 80 museums and private collections. She is the author of seven books including, *Markings: Aerial Views of Sacred Landscapes* (Aperture, 1986), *The Sacred and Secular: A Decade of Aerial Photography* (International Center of Photography, 1990), and *Egypt: Antiquities From Above* (Bulfinch Press, 1996).

Her photographs have appeared in major magazines, including *Vanity Fair*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Life*, *Archaeology*, *Smithsonian* and *The New York Times*. Bridges has received numerous awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship (1982), CAPS Grant (1983), NEA Grant, Fulbright Grant (1988), and the Makedonas Kostas Award (Greece, 1989). She is an elected fellow of The Explorers Club (1988), and received a 1991 Medal of Arles, Recontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles, France.

She is also an aerial landscape photographer for clients in Europe, Japan and the United States. Bridges' photographs, usually taken at low altitudes from a small, single engine aircraft that she pilots herself, force the viewer to examine the landscape from an unfamiliar perspective. In describing the transformative and transcendental view from the sky, Bridges says, "I felt as though I was in the presence of a great force, a force that provided unity, that challenged the narrow perspectives of our lives by requiring us to step back enough to view the whole."

SALLY GALL

(American, born 1956)

Sally Gall, an artist who uses landscapes as her subject matter, has spoken of photography as her medium of choice, due to her passionate love of nature and her desire to interact with the outdoors. In the majority of her photographs, the human figure is absent. It is the earth, sky and waterscapes in remote locations around the world that she responds to and, in turn, presents to us in her black-and-white photographs as serene, suspended moments in time.

Sally Gall was born in Washington, D.C. in 1956. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1978, and then moved to Houston, Texas. In 1987 she moved to New York City, which eventually became her permanent base of operations. She taught at the School of Visual Arts and the International Center of Photography (ICP), and lectured at photography workshops, both in the United States and abroad. Over the years, her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Travel + Leisure Magazine*, *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *New York Magazine*. Her published books include *The Water's Edge* (1995), *Between Worlds* (1998) and *Subterranea* (2003).



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(from the *Selected Landscapes* portfolio, c.1997)
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15 1/8 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.10

Public collections of Gall's works include the Guggenheim Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; The Cleveland Museum of Art; New Orleans Museum of Art; Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Montclair Art Museum; and Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.

"I always wanted to be an artist, perhaps a sculptor or painter, and when I discovered photography, I realized that this was the medium I could express myself in," relates Sally Gall. "I could interact with the real world, be in the real world, move through the real world and not be isolated in a studio. It appealed to me to be outdoors particularly, a love of nature being one of my strongest passions since childhood. Thus, photographing the natural world seemed an obvious activity."



Marly-le-Roi, France, 1980
 (from the *Erica Lennard: Selected Images* portfolio, c. 2000)
 Gelatin silver print
 12 1/4 x 18 1/4 in.
 Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
 HU 2002.5.1

ERICA LENNARD (American, born 1950)

Erica Lennard is a renowned and respected photographer of gardens; for more than 25 years, she has explored the beauty of nature. Lennard has photographed the majestic formal gardens of Europe, the Zen Gardens of Japan and the Imperial Gardens of China. In addition, she has captured images of the pyramids of Egypt, the temples of Angkor Wat, the monasteries of Ladakh and Bhutan, and the palaces of India. Her classical compositions give us a world of pure form, captured in the velvet blacks and luminous whites that are central to her vision.

Born in New York City in 1950, Lennard was raised there and in California. She received a B.F.A. in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1972. Lennard was awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1975. The next year she moved to Paris, and her career exploded with the publication of her first book, *Les Femmes Les Soeurs*, and her first exhibition. Initially, she worked primarily as a fashion and portrait photographer for *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, *Interview* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. She photographed the advertising campaigns of some of the greatest designers of the American fashion history, most notably Perry Ellis.

She began to focus on gardens, photographing the classic gardens of Le Notre, in Paris. Over the years, she has published more than 14 books, which have been published in several countries. Her many books include *American Writers at Home* (Library of America, 2004), *The Art of Doing Nothing* (Random House, 1998) and the monograph *Classic Gardens* (Lustrum Press, 1982).

Erica Lennard has been widely exhibited in Europe and the United States. She has contributed to the world's leading magazines, and continues to do special commercial assignments.

MARY ELLEN MARK

(American, born 1940)

Mary Ellen Mark has said, “The obsessions we have are pretty much the same our whole lives. Mine are people, the human condition, life.” She submerges herself into the lives of her subjects, sometimes spending months getting to know them. Her photographs document the lives – sad, tragic, weird or funny – of a diverse range of people. Whether abroad or in the United States, Mark’s intimate connection with her subjects are revealed in her photographs.

Mark studied at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, earning a B.F.A. in Painting and Art History in 1962, and an M.F.A. in Photojournalism in 1964. Mark received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1965 to photograph in Turkey. After traveling throughout Turkey and Europe, Mark returned to the United States in 1967, settling in New York City.

Her work as a still photographer for film productions led to one of her best known projects – *Ward 81*. After working on location for the movie *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* at the Oregon State Mental Hospital, she returned there in 1976 to photograph the resident mental patients. Her interest in people living on the periphery of mainstream society continues today. Her search for subjects has taken her to distant

countries (prostitutes in Bombay and Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India), and across America (a homeless family in Los Angeles, California and runaway children in Seattle, Washington). Mark shows great empathy for the people she photographs, often challenging our preconceived notions about the subject and exploring social issues.

Since the 1960s, her photographs and photo essays have appeared in numerous magazines, including *Aperture*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *LIFE*, *Look*, *National Geographic*, *New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Smithsonian*, *Time* and *Vanity Fair*. She has published 15 books, most recently, *Exposure*, a large retrospective book showcasing her best images, including both iconic and previously unpublished images.

Mark has received numerous awards and honors for her photojournalism, including the Cornell Capa Award, International Center of Photography; the Infinity Award for Journalism; an Erna and Victor Hasselblad Foundation Grant; National Endowment for the Arts fellowships; a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship; two Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards; the Matrix Award, for outstanding woman in the field of film/photography; and the Dr. Erich Salomon Award, for outstanding merits in the field of journalistic photography.

Her photographs have been exhibited both internationally and nationally since the 1970s. In 1992, a retrospective exhibition, *Mary Ellen Mark: 25 Years*, opened at the International Center for Photography in New York City, and traveled throughout the United States and Europe. Mark’s photographs are included in numerous museum collections, in the United States and abroad.



Las Vegas, 1991
(from the *In America* portfolio, c.1992)
Gelatin silver print
10 3/8 x 10 3/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 93.17.6

Exhibition Checklist

(Dimensions in inches, height x width)

BERENICE ABBOTT

Advertisements (Billboards), 1982
Gelatin silver print
18 x 23 in.
Gift of Mr. Lazarus Weiner
HU 83.25

American Shops, 1982
Gelatin silver print
18 x 22 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Lazarus Weiner
HU 83.24

Downtown Skyport, August 12, 1936
Gelatin silver print
23 x 18 in.
Gift of Mr. Lazarus Weiner
HU 84.24

East Side Portrait, 1936
Gelatin silver print
23 x 18 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Lazarus Weiner
HU 84.22

DIANE ARBUS

Russian Midget Friends in a Living Room on 100th Street, NYC, 1963
Gelatin silver print
14 1/2 x 14 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Steven Yager
HU 89.40

A Young Brooklyn Family Going For a Sunday Outing, NYC, 1966
Gelatin silver print
15 x 14 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Steven Yager
HU 89.37

A Young Man in Curlers at Home on West 20th Street, NYC, 1966
Gelatin silver print
14 3/4 x 14 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. Steven Yager
HU 89.38

MARILYN BRIDGES

Canete Fishing Village, Peru, 1989
(from the *Heightened Perspectives* portfolio, c. 1990)
Gelatin silver print
14 3/4 x 18 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 95.14.1

Cherhill Horse, Wiltshire, England, 1985
(from the *Heightened Perspectives* portfolio, c. 1990)
Gelatin silver print
14 3/4 x 18 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 95.14.5

Machu Picchu, Peru, 1989
(from the *Heightened Perspectives* portfolio, c. 1990)
Gelatin silver print
14 3/4 x 18 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 95.14.2

Navaho Hogan, M.V., Utah, 1983
(from the *Heightened Perspectives* portfolio, c. 1990)
Gelatin silver print
18 3/4 x 14 3/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 95.14.12

Exhibition Related Event

An Evening With Sally Gall

Facilitator Sally Gall is a renowned and respected landscape photographer, whose work captures the mystery and wonder of the natural world. During the past 25 years, she has traveled the world capturing the awe in various landscapes. Three books of her photography have been published, and among other collections, her work is included in the collections at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

► **Tuesday, March 11, 2008****7 p.m.****Emily Lowe Gallery, Emily Lowe Hall, South Campus**

\$5 general public, \$3 senior citizen (over 65), one free ticket with current faculty/staff/student Hofstra ID; Hofstra University Museum members admitted free.

SALLY GALL

Bayou, 1992
(from the *Selected Landscapes* portfolio,
c. 1997)
Gelatin silver print
15 1/8 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.4

Monadnock, 1990
(from the *Selected Landscapes* portfolio,
c. 1997)
Gelatin silver print
15 1/8 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.10

Rio Botanical Garden #1, 1986
(from the *Selected Landscapes* portfolio,
c. 1997)
Gelatin silver print
15 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.1

Tanah Lot, 1992
(from the *Selected Landscapes* portfolio,
c. 1997)
Gelatin silver print
15 1/16 x 15 1/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 99.14.8

ERICA LENNARD

Ferns, Italy, 1999
(from the *Erica Lennard: Selected Images*
portfolio, c. 2000)
Gelatin silver print
18 1/4 x 12 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 2002.5.6

Hampstead Heath, England, 1992
(from the *Erica Lennard: Selected Images*
portfolio, c. 2000)
Gelatin silver print
12 1/4 x 18 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU2002.5.3

Marly-le-Roi, France, 1980
(from the *Erica Lennard: Selected Images*
portfolio, c. 2000)
Gelatin silver print
12 1/4 x 18 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 2002.5.1

Water Lilies, Tunisia, 2000
(from the *Erica Lennard: Selected Images*
portfolio, c. 2000)
Gelatin silver print
12 1/4 x 18 1/4 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 2002.5.7

MARY ELLEN MARK

Las Vegas, 1991
(from the *In America* portfolio, c. 1992)
Gelatin silver print
10 3/8 x 10 3/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 93.17.6

Private School, Miami, 1986
(from the *In America* portfolio, c. 1992)
Gelatin silver print
10 3/8 x 10 3/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 93.17.10

Quinceannera, Miami, 1986
(from the *In America* portfolio, c. 1992)
Gelatin silver print
10 3/8 x 10 3/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 93.17.7

South Beach Miami, 1986
(from the *In America* portfolio, c. 1992)
Gelatin silver print
10 3/8 x 10 3/8 in.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ball
HU 93.17.8

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For information about upcoming programs and exhibitions, please contact:

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