





COMMUNITY/DOCUMENTARY

The history of photography has been a history of documenting the world as it is, and of capturing the human condition in all its complexity. From the early daguerotypes to the modern digital age, photographers have used their cameras to tell stories, to expose social issues, and to create a visual record of our shared humanity. This section of the exhibition explores the role of photography in community and documentary work, highlighting the work of photographers who have used their art to bring attention to the lives of marginalized communities and to advocate for social change.

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1940s
Jazz band performing on stage



1940s
Record shop on the street



1940s
Community gathering



1. Ladies and Gentlemen: Please, Ladies and Gentlemen Please
 West Public Market, 1962 (1962-1963)
 Photo by [unreadable]

2. Speaking on Stage
 West Public Market, 1962 (1962-1963)
 Photo by [unreadable]

3. May Day Parade - [unreadable] Ladies and Gentlemen Please
 West Public Market, 1962 (1962-1963)
 Photo by [unreadable]

4. Ladies and Gentlemen Please
 West Public Market, 1962 (1962-1963)
 Photo by [unreadable]

5. Ladies and Gentlemen Please
 West Public Market, 1962 (1962-1963)
 Photo by [unreadable]

6. Ladies and Gentlemen Please
 West Public Market, 1962 (1962-1963)
 Photo by [unreadable]



Keneth River, California 1964 (printed 1972)
Gary Winograd 1964-1966
printed after 2000
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco



Los Angeles International Airport 1964 (printed 1972)
Gary Winograd 1964-1966
printed after 2000
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco



1970s Living Room



1970s Living Room



1970s Living Room

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The collection of photographs held by the San Francisco Arts Commission and designated for exhibition in the Ruth Kadoh Gallery features fifty artworks ranging in date from 1927 to 1988. The works depict subject matter that is distinctly Californian—celebrating the unique cultural, historical, and natural features of the state while connecting it to the larger context of photographic history. The collection is divided into four groups of images that rotate annually: Community/Documentary, Natural Landscape, Built Environment, and Horizon of the West.

Works in the Community/Documentary group feature artists whose practice focuses on the human subject and the documentary method. Those in the Natural Landscape group address various approaches to photographing the topography of the California landscape. The Built Environment group depicts human intervention of the landscape, urban environments, and industry. Horizon of the West features a selection of images from the monograph and curatorial project of the same name, authored by Leneis Watts and Elizabeth Popin Silva, which chronicles the Jazz Era in the Fillmore District of San Francisco.

The other walls in this gallery feature programming from SFO Museum. These exhibitions highlight artists whose work thematically engages with the works exhibited from the SFAC collection. These pairings are intended to encourage conversation, draw connections, and highlight influence or shifting trends in the photographic medium over time.

sfac SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION







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↑ Gates

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FIRST-GENERATION | China Dream and Suburban Chinatown
Works by Teresa Eng and Jessica Chou



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↑ Gates





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Welcome to Terminal 3
↑ [E] [F] Gates & International Terminal [A] [G] Gates

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