



HOWARD GREENBERG GALLERY

WEEGEE

February 16 – April 1, 2017



Weegee Getting a Mug Shot at Station House, New York, c.1936
Gelatin silver print; printed c.1936, 10 3/8 x 13 1/4 inches

NEW YORK – WEEGEE, an exhibition of work by the iconic photographer, will be on view at Howard Greenberg Gallery from February 16 – April 1, 2017. Focusing predominantly on his most prolific decade, the 1940s, the exhibition presents more than 30 images including rare work as well as a number of prints that solidified his extraordinary legacy. An opening exhibition will be held on Thursday, February 16 from 6-8 p.m.

As a photographer and photojournalist, Arthur Fellig (Weegee) was in his own words "spellbound by the mystery of murder." His uncanny ability to make early appearances at scenes of violence and catastrophe earned him the name Weegee (appropriated from the Ouija board). His film noir style and dry wit combined with his sensational images of the naked city, often taken at night with a strong flash, have earned him a reputation as one of the greatest street photographers of the 20th century.

Among the highlights in the exhibition will be a 1936 self portrait of Weegee getting his own mug shot at a police station. A series of portraits of people looking up in the sky from 1945 depicts children, a police officer, a man with a telescope, and a nun all watching a fire. A 1943 image entitled *The Critic*,

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depicts a disdainful onlooker checking out two ornately dressed women on their way to the opera. A touching photograph from c. 1944 shows two animal caretakers sleeping next to a pen with two giraffes at Madison Square Garden.

About Weegee

Arthur Fellig (1899-1968) was born in the town of Lemberg (now in Ukraine) and first worked as a photographer at age 14, three years after his family immigrated to the United States, where his first name was changed from Usher to the more American-sounding Arthur. Self-taught, he held many photography-related jobs before gaining regular employment at a photography studio in lower Manhattan in 1918. By 1935, he was working as a freelance news photographer, centering his activity around police headquarters. In 1938, he obtained permission to install a police radio in his car, which enabled him to take the first and most sensational photographs of news events and offer them for sale to publications such as the *Herald-Tribune*, *Daily News*, *Post*, *the Sun*, and *PM Weekly*, among others.

During the 1940s, Weegee's photographs appeared outside the mainstream press and met success there as well. New York's Photo League held an exhibition of his work in 1941, and the Museum of Modern Art began collecting his work and exhibited it in 1943. Weegee published his photographs in several books, including *Naked City*, 1945, *Weegee's People*, 1946, and *Naked Hollywood*, 1953. After moving to Hollywood in 1947, he devoted most of his energy to making 16-millimeter films and photographs for his *Distortions* series, a project that resulted in experimental portraits of celebrities and political figures. He returned to New York in 1952 and lectured and wrote about photography until his death. His work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and International Center of Photography, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

WEEGEE will be on view at HGG2, and runs concurrently with Alex Majoli: SKĒNĒ, in the main gallery. Majoli's first New York gallery show documents the thin line between reality and theatre, and his work, like Weegee's, is known for its nocturnal aspects.

About Howard Greenberg Gallery

Since its inception over 30 years ago, Howard Greenberg Gallery has built a vast and ever-changing collection of some of the most important photographs in the medium. The Gallery's collection acts as a living history of photography, offering genres and styles from Pictorialism to Modernism, in addition to contemporary photography and images conceived for industry, advertising, and fashion. Howard Greenberg Gallery is located at 41 East 57th Street, Suite 1406, New York. The gallery exhibits at The ADAA Art Show, The Armory Show, The Photography Show presented by AIPAD, New York, Photo London, Art Basel, Paris Photo, and Art Basel Miami Beach. For more information, contact 212-334-0010 or info@howardgreenberg.com or visit www.howardgreenberg.com.

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