

Garrison Art Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEONARD FREED | Leonard Freed's New York

November 1 - 23, 2025



L to R - *Wall Street*, 1956, giclee print; *Harlem Fire Hydrant*, 1963, giclee print

OCTOBER 17, 2025, GARRISON, NY— Garrison Art Center (GAC) is proud to present *Leonard Freed's New York*, an exhibition of works by renowned American photojournalist **Leonard Freed**, born 1929, Brooklyn, died 2006, Garrison, New York. This exhibit traces the formative years of a photographer whose humanism and integrity never wavered.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS: All exhibition related events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Dates: November 1 - 23, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 1, 2025, 5 - 7 PM

Gallery hours: Tuesday– Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM

"Ultimately, photography is about who you are. It's the seeking of truth in relation to yourself. And seeking truth becomes a habit." - Leonard Freed

Leonard Freed's New York documents postwar opulence in Midtown to everyday poetry in Harlem, from Brooklyn's Hasidic neighborhoods to the charged city streets in *Police Work* (1978–79). Together, the New York City photographs in the exhibit, most of which were done early in Leonard Freed's five decade career as a professional photographer, form a portrait of a city, country, time, and an artist, defined by curiosity, compassion, and clarity.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Freed left New York in the mid-1950s to explore postwar Europe. Marrying Brigitte Klüger and moving with her to Amsterdam, their daughter Elke Susannah was born in 1959. Leonard remained in Amsterdam over a decade, moving back to New York in 1970.

Although Freed was based abroad for many years, he returned often to the US to photograph his native city. From early on, Freed cast a fresh while visually sophisticated eye on his subjects. "I was as good a photographer at the beginning of my career as I was at the end," Freed later reflected. These images of New York are visual verification. In 1963 Leonard Freed extended his moral inquiry beyond his native New York to other regions of the US. when he began his well known series of images on civil rights, "Black in White America."

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This exhibit features a curated selection of Leonard Freed's most iconic images, each one printed by Hank Gans, who was Freed's close friend for 36 years. Hank Gans's giclee prints of Leonard Freed's images—produced using museum-grade pigments and papers—have not just great archival permanence but also extraordinary tonal depth and detail. They are not mere reproductions but reinterpretations, shaped by memory, fidelity to Freed's intent, and the artistic dialogue that continues beyond the photographer's lifetime.

Leonard Freed's (1929 – 2006) photographs are found in numerous collections worldwide including the Metropolitan Museum, New York, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C., J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Jewish Museum, New York, High Museum, Atlanta and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Sixteen monographs of Freed's work have been published, including: *Deutsche Juden Heute* (German Jews Today) 1965, *Black in White America*, 1967 and 2010, *Made in Germany*, 1970, *Police Work*, 1971, *La Danse des Fidèles* (The Dance of the Faithful, 1984, *Leonard Freed: Photographs 1954-1990*, 1991, *Amsterdam: The 60s*, 1997, *Leonard Freed: Worldview*, 2007, and *This Is the Day: The March on Washington*, 2013.

Leonard Freed's New York will be on view in the Balter Gallery, concurrent with **PHOTOcentric 2025**, *State of Our Union* in our Gillette Gallery.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: To learn more about Leonard Freed, visit magnumphotos.com/photographer/leonard-freed. For information about exhibitions, classes, and other programs at Garrison Art Center, please visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960. Join the conversation via Instagram @GarrisonArtCenter.

ABOUT GARRISON ART CENTER: Garrison Art Center (GAC), located in Garrison, NY, is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit arts and education organization founded in 1964. GAC is committed to making a difference by providing access to the visual arts to a diverse audience of learners, professional artists, community members, collectors, families, and friends from varied ethnic, cultural, geographic, and economic backgrounds.



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