

DAVE HEATH
On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth



Dave Heath
Miles Smith, Troy Ohio, 1966

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

April 24–May 29, 2021

DAVE HEATH - *On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth*

WAAP, in collaboration with Stephen Bulger Gallery, in Toronto, present a selection of works by under-recognized master of 1960s black and white photography, Dave Heath. (born Philadelphia 1931, died Toronto 2016).

The works selected for this exhibition share a common theme of youth culture, isolation and abandonment. With subjects consisting primarily of children and adolescents, Heath captures moments of the intense, and often confusing, emotions experienced by youth. This exploration of immortalized youth is rooted in Heath's lived experiences. At the age of four, he was abandoned by both of his parents. By the age of fifteen, he had lived in a series of foster homes and, finally, in an orphanage. It was at this early age, Heath knew that he wanted to be an artist, seeing this as the best way to experience the world and come to define himself within it.

Integral to understanding Heath's work is appreciating the technical crafting of his photographs. Dodging and burning his images, both through hand manipulations during darkroom exposure, as well as through chemical reduction and intensification of tones after development, Heath's deliberate yet artful manipulation of the lights and darks, grants access to deeper interpretations of his subject's psyche and emotions. Often the resulting image is a powerful contrast of stark whites and heavy blacks and his subjects ebb and flow through every gradient in between.

This exhibition is part of the 2021 Capture Photography Festival Selected Exhibitions Program.

Capture Photography Festival

Dave Heath
Chicago, 1956
Gelatin silver print
9.75 x 6.25 in (24.8 x 15.9 cm)
17 x 14 in (43.2 x 35.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
New York City, 1962
Gelatin silver print
4.75 x 3.25 in (12.1 x 8.3 cm)
14 x 11 in (35.6 x 27.9 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Oakland, California, 1964
Edition of 4 (#3/4)
Gelatin silver print mounted to period support
7.5 x 5 in (19.1 x 12.7 cm)
17 x 14 in (43.2 x 35.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Chicago, Illinois [ADWS], c. 1955
Gelatin silver print
8.5 x 5.75 in (21.6 x 14.6 cm)
17 x 14 in (43.2 x 35.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Miles Smith, Troy Ohio, 1966
Gelatin silver print
7 x 4.75 in (17.8 x 12.1 cm)
14 x 11 in (35.6 x 27.9 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
St. Louis Missouri, 1967
Gelatin silver print
4.75 x 7 in (12.1 x 17.8 cm)
11 x 14 in (27.9 x 35.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Central Park, 1957
Gelatin silver print
10 x 13.5 in (25.4 x 34.3 cm)
16 x 20 in (40.6 x 50.8 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Washington Square, NYC, c. 1959
Gelatin silver print mounted to board
7.75 x 8.5 in (19.7 x 21.6 cm)
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm) Framed



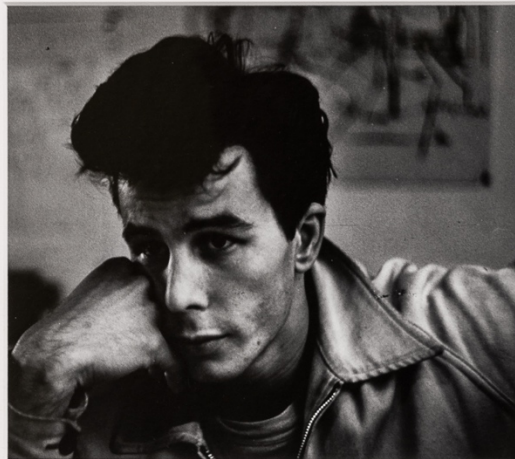
Dave Heath
Chicago, 1956
Gelatin silver print mounted to period board
12.75 x 8.5 in (32.4 x 21.6 cm)
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Korea, 1953
Gelatin silver print flush mounted to board
13.5 x 9.25 in (34.3 x 23.5 cm)
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Skip Finn, 7 Arts Coffee Gallery, New York City, 1959
Gelatin silver print mounted to period board
8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm)
14 x 17 in (35.6 x 43.2 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Washington Square, New York City, 1960
Gelatin silver print
9.75 x 7 in (24.8 x 17.8 cm)
17 x 14 in (43.2 x 35.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Washington Square, NYC, 1959
Gelatin silver print mounted to period board
7.25 x 9.25 in (18.4 x 23.5 cm)
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
Washington Square, New York City, 1959
Gelatin silver print mounted to period board
8.75 x 6.5 in (22.2 x 16.5 cm)
17 x 14 in (43.2 x 35.6 cm) Framed



Dave Heath
NYC [ADWS], c. 1960
Gelatin silver print mounted to period board
5 x 6.5 in (12.7 x 16.5 cm)
14 x 17 in (35.6 x 43.2 cm) Framed



Dave Heath, *On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth*, Exhibition View, Wil Aballe Art Projects
2021



Dave Heath, *On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth*, Exhibition View, Wil Aballe Art Projects
2021



Dave Heath, *On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth*, Exhibition View, Wil Aballe Art Projects
2021



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dave Heath

(b. 1931, Philadelphia, USA; d. 2016, Toronto, Canada)

By the age of four Dave Heath had been abandoned by both of his parents. By the age of fifteen he had lived in a series of foster homes and, finally, in an orphanage. Given that only his mother was of the Jewish tradition, yet this is how he was being raised as well as the lack of any family support, he did not feel that he belonged anywhere. However, through the study of Jewish history he gained an understanding of a human community and our individual commitments to survival. Coupling this with American history Heath began to lay the groundwork for his belief in a purposeful life. At this early age, Heath knew that he wanted to be an artist seeing this as the best way to experience the world and come to define himself within it.

In May 1947, Heath saw Ralph Crane's photo-essay in *LIFE Magazine* called "Bad Boy's Life". Struck by the success of how succinctly these pictures connected to a deeply felt shared experience, Heath knew he wanted to become a photographer. Using the orphanage's darkroom, he began to master the mechanics of the medium. Thwarted by enrolling vocational school by its restrictive enrolment policy, he dropped out of high school and became a darkroom printer at a commercial lab. A book by John Whiting called *Photography is a Language* helped him understand the complexity of the medium. It was Heath's passionate dedication to a self-directed study of history, art and the role of an artist which defined his existence.

Heath began photographing during the late 1940s. He briefly studied art at the Philadelphia College of Art and the Institute of Design in Chicago, supporting himself as assistant to commercial photographers. By 1959, Heath was in New York where he studied with the ground-breaking photojournalist W. Eugene Smith. His subsequent work has been highly influenced by Smith's humanistic tone and emphasis on the photographic narrative.

Working in the streets, Heath used its inhabitants to capture individual moments in tightly structured compositions that are charged with the importance of their individuality and the seriousness of their situation. Early on, he was inspired by the ability of a sequence of photographs vs. a single image to evoke the complexity of his story. At the age of 21 he composed his first maquette called *3* and in the intervening years worked his subsequent photographs into elaborate sequences culminating in 1961's "A Dialogue With Solitude", published as a book in 1965.

Heath first came to prominence with the 1963 exhibition “A Dialogue With Solitude”, a moving series of black and white images addressing contemporary isolation. Heath subsequently won two Guggenheim Fellowships. In the 1970s, after moving to Toronto, Heath began experimenting with Polaroid technology and produced a series of narrative works under the title “Songs of Innocence”.

In addition, Heath had mounted several thematic slide presentations using vernacular photographs including “Le Grand album ordinaire” (1973) and “Ars Moriendi” (1980). In 1981 the National Gallery of Canada mounted an exhibition of the two series “A Dialogue with Solitude and Songs of Innocence IV”. Heath has been exhibited across the United States and Canada including group and solo exhibitions at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; San Francisco Camerawork, Photofind Gallery, New York; Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto; and *Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa*.

His photographs are represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; International Museum of Photography, New York; George Eastman House, Rochester, New York; The Getty, Los Angeles; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; among other institutions.

From 1970 until 1997, Heath taught photography at Ryerson University in Toronto. Dave Heath died in Toronto in his 85th birthday in 2016.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
Dave Heath: Dialogues with Solitudes, The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 Dave Heath: Dialogues with Solitudes, Le Bal, Paris, France
- 2016 Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
- 2015 Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Dave Heath, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY
- 2007 Currents, HP Garcia Gallery, New York
- 2006 Dave Heath: 1960s, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto
- 2002 Dave Heath, Hereford Photography Festival, Hereford, England

- 2001 Dave Heath, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York
- 2000 Dave Heath: 1940s to 1960s, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto
- 1999 Dave Heath: Vintage Photographs, Barry Singer Gallery, Petaluma, CA
- 1997 A Dialogue With Solitude, Simon Lowinsky Gallery, New York
- 1994 A Dialogue With Solitude, The Minneapolis Art Institute
- 1989 Lesley Walker: A Collaborative Portrayal, Ryerson Bond Street Gallery, Toronto
- 1988 Dave Heath, Work from the 50s and 60s, Photofind Gallery, New York
Le Plaisir de Voir; La Passion du Regard: Photographs 1963-67, 1983-88, Spectrum
Gallery, Rochester, NY
A Dialogue With Solitude, The Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia
College, Chicago
A Dialogue With Solitude, Stephen Cohen Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1985 Dew World, or, Dancing with Frenzy before God, Ryerson Bond Street Gallery,
Toronto
- 1983 Dew World, or Dancing with Frenzy before God, Red Eye Gallery, Rhode Island
School of Design, Providence
- 1981 Songs of Innocence III, Harbourfront, Toronto
Songs of Innocence IV, A Dialogue With Solitude, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
- 1979 Songs of Innocence II, Walter J. Phillips Gallery, Banff
- 1968 Dave Heath, Phoenix College Library, Phoenix
Dave Heath, Focus Gallery, San Francisco
- 1965 Work in Progress, Westbank Gallery, Minneapolis
Neither Peace Nor War, Edgecliff Academy of Fine Arts, Cincinnati
- 1964 Dave Heath: Recent Photographs, Heliography Gallery, New York
A Dialogue With Solitude, Judson Memorial Church, New York
A Dialogue With Solitude, The Village Camera Club, New York
- 1963 A Dialogue With Solitude, Art Institute of Chicago
A Dialogue With Solitude, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
- 1961 Dave Heath, Image Gallery, New York
- 1958 Neither Peace Nor War, 7 Arts Coffee Gallery, New York

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Counterpoints: Photography Through the Lens of Toronto Collections, University of
Toronto Art Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2015 20th Anniversary, A Group Exhibition Celebrating 20 Years, Stephen Bulger Gallery,
Toronto
- 2012 1955: A Group Show, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto

- 2010 Street Seen: The Psychological Gesture in American Photography, 1940-1959, Milwaukee Art Museum
- 1999 Wonderland, Noorderlicht, The Netherlands
- 1994 The Family, Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography
- 1993 Magicians of Light, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
- 1990 Street Engagements, Social Landscape Photography of the 60s, George Eastman House, Rochester
- 1989 The Snapshot/Family Album, Artscourt, Ottawa
- 1978 Mirrors and Windows: American Photography Since 1960, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1976 The UCLA Collection of Contemporary American Photographs, Frederick S. Wright Art Gallery, University of California at Los Angeles
- 1974 Ryerson: A Community of Photographers, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
Photography in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1970 Contemporary Photography: A Sensitive View, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
- 1968 Permanent Exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, New York
Contemporary Photographs, Dickson Art Center, University of California at Los Angeles
- 1967 Contemporary Photography Since 1950, George Eastman House, Rochester
Photography in the Twentieth Century, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
- 1966 American Photography: The Sixties, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Contemporary Photographers II, George Eastman House, Rochester
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellows in Photography, Philadelphia College of Art
- 1965 Photography in America 1850 - 1965, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven
Photographs from the George Eastman House Collection, New York World's Fair
Third Annual Exhibition of the Heliographers' Association, Lever House, New York
- 1964 Lever House II: 100 Photographs at Lever House by the Association of Heliographers, Lever House, New York
Recent Acquisitions, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1963 A Bid for Space IV, Museum of Modern Art, New York
Photography 63: An International Exhibition, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
- 1962 3 Photographers, Judson Hall Gallery, Judson Memorial Church, New York
- 1959 New York Public Library, Hudson Park Branch, New York
- 1964 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship
- 1963 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 *Dave Heath, Dialogue with Solitude*, Le Bal/Steidl, Paris/Germany
2016 *Washington Square*, Dave Heath, Stanley/Barker, London
2015 Keith F. Davis, *Multitude Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London
2000 *Dave Heath, A Dialogue with Solitude*, Lumiere Press, Toronto
2007 *Dave Heath's Art Show*, Lumiere Press, Toronto and New York
2004 Michael Torosian. *Korea*, Lumiere Press, Toronto and New York
1988 Michael Torosian. *Extempore*, Lumiere Press, Toronto and New York
1965 *Dave Heath, A Dialogue with Solitude*, Community Press, New York

COLLECTIONS

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, University of Texas, Fort Worth, TX
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa, ON
George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
The Getty, Los Angeles, CA
International Museum of Photography, New York, NY
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO

PRESS

National Gallery of Canada



Multitude, Solitude: The Photographs of Dave Heath

Explore the compelling work of one of the finest street photographers of his generation.

<https://www.gallery.ca/whats-on/exhibitions-and-galleries/multitude-solitude-the-photographs-of-dave-heath>

The New York Times



Dave Heath: A Master of Photographing Solitude

Standing between documentary and art, the black-and-white work of Dave Heath captures the world as quiet and contemplative.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/24/lens/dave-heath-dialogues-with-solitudes.html>

Philadelphia
Museum of
Art



**Multitude, Solitude: The
Photographs of Dave Heath**

September 19, 2015 - February 21, 2016

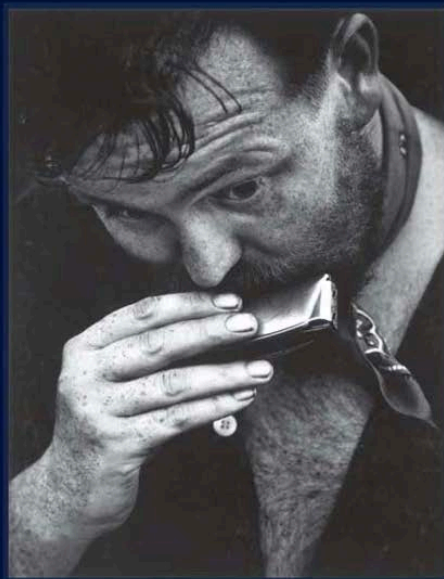
<https://philamuseum.org/exhibitions/2016/829.html>



Who Is Dave Heath?

MULTITUDE, SOLITUDE

The Photographs of **Dave Heath**



<https://vimeo.com/276114872>

Steidl
Books



<https://steidl.de/Books/Dialogues-with-Solitudes-1217323650.html>

National Gallery of Canada

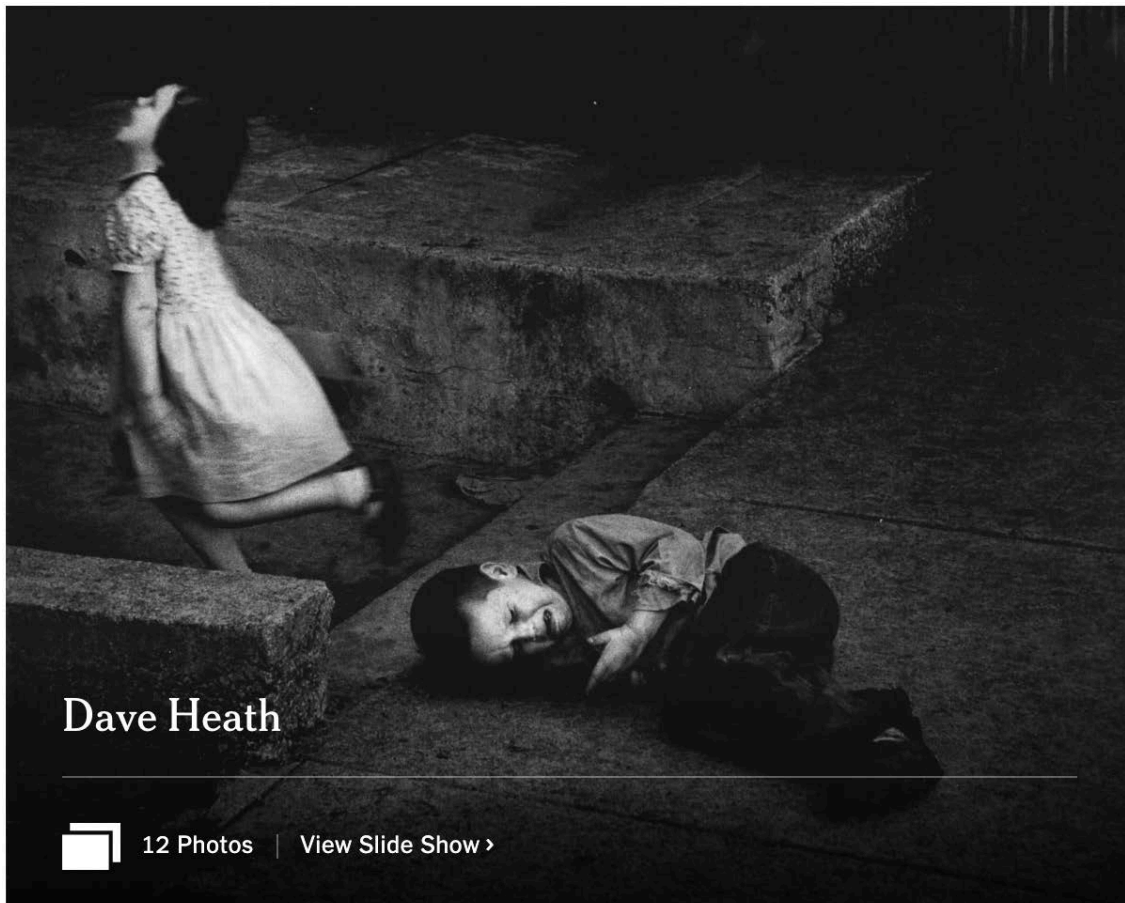


Dave Heath, *Philadelphia, 17 November 1968*. Gelatin silver print, 4 5/8 x 6 7/8 inches. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri. Gift of Elizabeth and Jeffrey Klotz and family, 2012.39.118. ©Howard Greenberg Gallery and Stephen Bulger Gallery.

From Monochrome to Colour: Dave Heath's Photographs and Slide Tape Presentations

<https://www.gallery.ca/magazine/exhibitions/ngc/from-monochrome-to-colour-dave-heaths-photographs-and-slide-tape>

The New York Times



Howard Greenberg Gallery and Stephen Bulger Gallery

Dave Heath, Photographer of Isolation, Dies at 85

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/02/arts/dave-heath-photographer-of-isolation-dies-at-85.html>