

## MAR 6 LOUIS FAURER/ HELEN LEVITT | DEBORAH BELL PHOTOGRAPHS

REVIEWS (/CULTURE/CATEGORY/REVIEWS)



Louis FAURER (American, 1916-2001)  
New York, NY, ca. 1980

### Louis Faurer/ Helen Levitt: *New York City, 1938-1988* | Deborah Bell Photographs

February 20 - April 19, 2025

Written by Eugenia Mosquera

Like two sides of the same coin, New York has been a source of inspiration for an unimaginable number of people. A maze, a concrete jungle, a melting pot, a vibrant city filled with stories steeped in history. Many have referred to this city as the apotheosis of America or as a national outlier, perceived as the center of trends shaping the rest of the country's identity. Some have even labeled it as "the capital of the twentieth century." Its complexity is undeniable, and its mysticism has been subject of exploration for many photographers drawn by its lively spell.

Deborah Bell Photographs presents Louis Faurer and Helen Levitt's *New York City, 1938-1988*, an exhibition that merges both artists to showcase the two faces of 20th century New York, inviting us to walk through the New York of nostalgia. Their work is a radiography of society: two juxtaposed perspectives, humor and melancholy, offer different takes of the same city over the same period. Spanning 50 years of history, their photography encapsulates the intricacies of a multi-layered mirror of the world.



# MUSÉE

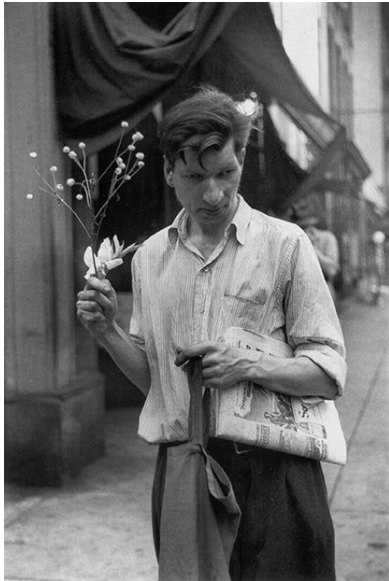
VANGUARD OF PHOTOGRAPHY CULTURE

Louis FAURER (American, 1916-2001)  
Penn Station, New York, NY, 1946-48 (couple at lockers)



Helen LEVITT (American, 1913-2009)  
New York, ca. 1945

Both were overlooked visionaries during their lifetimes, but their work has since been rediscovered and celebrated. They are presented as a dichotomy of the same muse. Through street photography, both explored and captured a different perspective of a shared world: Levitt's playful, surreal moments contrast with Faurer's moody, introspective portraits - two distinct styles but complementary approaches to capturing urban life.



Louis FAURER (American, 1916-2001)  
Eddie, New York, NY, 1946

Faurer (1916-2001), known for his compelling black and white images documenting both urban life and haute couture, manages to find the surreal and dreamy within such characteristic urban setting, whether he is photographing the aftermath of a car crash, a solitary woman amidst a haze cigarette smoke, or a refined woman waiting clutching her purse. The images feature layered compositions with reflections and blurred motion, creating a sense of mystery and introspection. His use of double exposure and film grain adds a cinematic and realistic touch, as if memories and flashbacks materializing before our eyes, capturing the essence of nocturnal city life and evoking feelings of solitude and reflection.

# MUSÉE

VANGUARD OF PHOTOGRAPHY



Helen LEVITT (American, 1913-2009)  
New York, 1938, (boys up tree)

Conversely, Levitt style is much more cinematic in its characteristics. Deeply influenced by surrealism and silent film, Helen Levitt (1913-2009) also explored the uncanny elements of everyday life, often focusing on the interactions and relationships between people, particularly children at play. Her images portray a sense of spontaneity, humor, and humanity.



Helen LEVITT (American, 1913-2009)  
New York, ca. 1940

New York is a city of contradictions—one block bursting with laughter, the next filled with quiet loneliness. Few photographers captured this duality better than Levitt and Faurer. Levitt viewed the city as a playground, a stage where children danced with mischief. Faurer found poetry in shadows, documenting solitary souls lost in the neon glow of a restless metropolis. Together, they reveal the various emotional layers of a city that encompasses everything, all at once. Experience this duality at Deborah Bell Photographs until April 19.

# MUSÉE

Louis Faurel / Helen Levitt Exhibition Review  
VANGUARD OF PHOTOGRAPHY CULTURE  
(/culture/tag/Louis+Faurel%2F+Helen+Levitt+Exhibition+Review)

f (HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER/SHARER.PHP?U=HTTPS%3A%2F%2FMUSEEMAGAZINE.COM%2FCULTURE%2F2025%2F2%2F2%2FLOUIS-FAURER-HELEN-LEVITT-DEBORAH-BELL-PHOTOGRAPHS)

t (HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/INTENT/TWEET?URL=HTTPS%3A%2F%2FMUSEEMAGAZINE.COM%2FCULTURE%2F2025%2F2%2F2%2FLOUIS-FAURER-HELEN-LEVITT-DEBORAH-BELL-PHOTOGRAPHS&TEXT=)

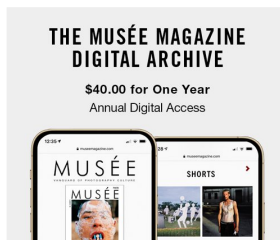
t (HTTPS://WWW.TUMBLR.COM/SHARE/LINK?URL=HTTPS%3A%2F%2FMUSEEMAGAZINE.COM%2FCULTURE%2F2025%2F2%2F2%2FLOUIS-FAURER-HELEN-LEVITT-DEBORAH-BELL-PHOTOGRAPHS)

p (HTTPS://WWW.PINTEREST.COM/PIN/CREATE/LINK?DESCRIPTION=&MEDIA=HTTPS://IMAGES.SQUARESPACE-CDN.COM/CONTENT/V1/5702AB9D746FB9634796C9F9/1741226735499-33VSE6TBPZER9VWJ2I/FAURER\_13\_72.JPEG&URL=HTTPS%3A%



(https://leica-camera.com/en-US/photography/cameras/sl3-black)

Advertisement



(/membership)

Advertisement



Mar 7 The Last Exit

(/culture/2025/3/6/rwuncacw7009yc7nxh4vepa8cahgn)



Mar 6 Book Review: Summer Camp

### Related Posts



2024/4/5/conceptual-  
deborah-bell-  
photographs-QZTPn)

Apr 5 CONCEPTUAL MATTERS : Deborah Bell Photographs (/culture/2024/4/5/conceptual-matters-deborah-bell-photographs-QZTPn)



ulture/2025/2/16/high-noon-  
nan-goldin-david-armstrong-  
mark-morrisroe-philip-lorca-  
diCorcia-deichtorhallen-  
hamburg)

Feb 17 High Noon: Nan Goldin, David Armstrong, Mark Morrisroe, Philip-Lorca diCorcia | Deichtorhallen Hamburg (/culture/2025/2/16/high-noon-nan-goldin-david-armstrong-mark-morrisroe-philip-lorca-dicorcia-deichtorhallen-hamburg)



2020/3/12/gallery-  
review-deborah-bell-photographs)

Mar 21 Gallery Review: Deborah Bell Photographs (/culture/2020/3/12/gallery-review-deborah-bell-photographs)

Paris Photo

7-10 Nov. 2024 Grand Palais

(https://www.parisphoto.com/?utm\_source=parisphoto2024&utm\_medium=barter\_website&utm\_campaign=museemagazine)

Advertisement



Site designed by **SHAHID / KRAUS & COMPANY** (<http://shahidkraus.com/>).

ALL IMAGES, TRADEMARKS, AND TRADE NAMES ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARK HOLDERS © 2018 MUSÉE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PUBLISHED BY MUSÉE. Musée Magazine. Established 2011.