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# Documenting Authentic, Everyday New York
# From the 1940s On

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, by Hana R. Alberts



*[Rooftops, New York City, 1979. All photos copyright Jerome Liebling Photography, courtesy Steven Kasher Gallery, New York.]*

Born in Harlem and raised in Bensonhurst, **Jerome Liebling** enlisted to fight in World War II, then returned to study art thanks to the G.I. Bill. In the late 40s, he joined the Photo League, a group who aimed, through their work, to shed light on poverty and other issues of social justice. Liebling, who passed away in 2011, then spent decades establishing an art and film program at the University of Minnesota, only to return to his hometown in the 70s, when the **Bronx** was already burning and **Brighton Beach** was poised for a major

demographic shift. "Renowned for **capturing the city's poetic and fleeting moments** with a social-minded sensibility," Liebling's body of work is vast, **spanning boroughs, decades, and photographic styles**—above all, "trying to find the meaning behind everyday New Yorkers." Inspirational to documentary-makers everywhere, he was "so authentic, in a way that a lot of us had never experienced," said Ken Burns. "You wanted to be like him. **You wanted to tell the truth**."



*[Brooklyn, New York, 1947.]*

Fifty of his photos are on display in "Jerome Liebling: Brooklyn and Other Boroughs, April 24th – June 6th 2015" at the Steven Kasher Gallery until June 6. Go forth.
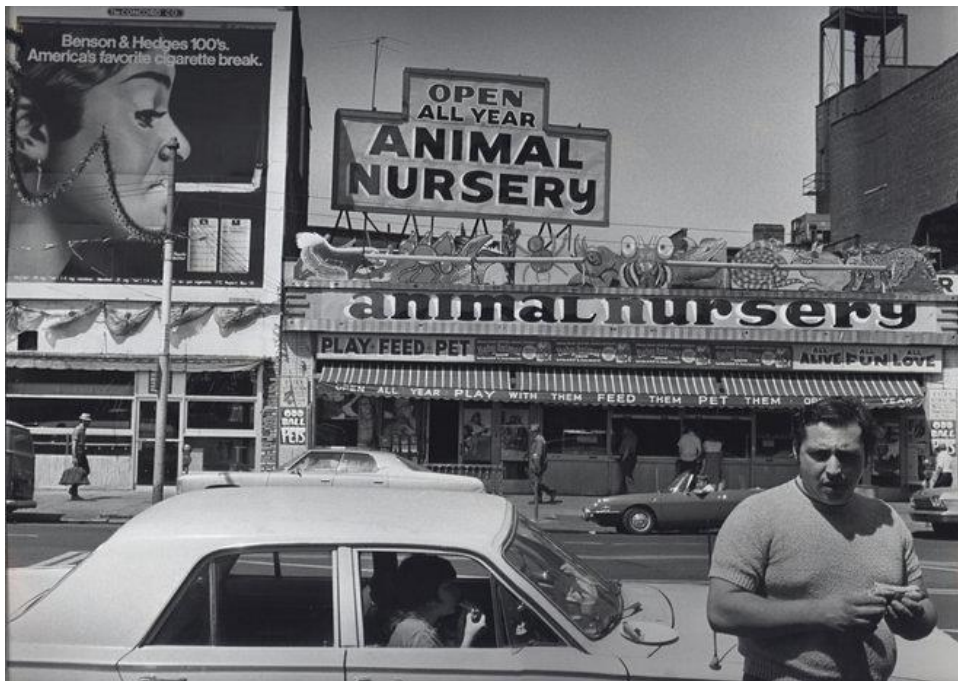


*[South Bronx, New York City, 1977.]*

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*[Charlotte Street, South Bronx, New York City, 1977.]*



*[Coney Island, New York City, 1973.]*

*[Wilkins Avenue, South Bronx, New York City, 1979.]*



*[Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, New York , 1976.]*

*Steven Kasher Gallery*



[Brighton Under El, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, New York, 1985.]



[East Side, New York City, 1947.]

*[Brighton Beach Under El, Brooklyn, NY, 1979.]*