

ART IN BROOKLYN

MERYL MEISLER: PLAYFUL SASSY '70S

By Mike, July 17, 2018



Meryl Meisler's photos of children in New York during the 1970s focuses on scenes of joy, freedom, moments of innocence and abandon. The photos are on public display along Brooklyn Bridge Park as part of a public arts project known as the FENCE.

The FENCE is a large-scale traveling photography exhibition reaching over 6 million visitors annually through open-air exhibitions in 8 cities across North America: Brooklyn, Boston, Atlanta, Santa Fe, Durham, Denver, Calgary (Canada), and Sarasota. Photographers submitting to The FENCE 2018 may also be considered for one of our 5 Regional Showcase exhibitions that will highlight work by photographers living in New Mexico, Colorado, North Carolina, New England, and Western Canada respectively.

The FENCE is on view at Brooklyn Bridge Park through September 10.

STEVEN
KASHER
GALLERY

PROJECT STATEMENT:

There is an element of play in nearly all my photographs. To create the self-portrait as a ballerina, I donned one of my childhood ballet recital costumes to reenact a performance and curtsied in the living room of the home I grew up in. Moving from the suburbs to New York City in the 1970s was thrilling. I enjoyed photographing kids of all ages at play on the streets of NYC during what I consider my SASSY '70s. I like to photograph things that give me joy, because there's certainly enough heartache.

ARTIST BIO:

Meryl Meisler was born in the South Bronx in 1951 and raised in North Massapequa, Long Island, NY. Inspired by Diane Arbus and Jacques Henri Lartigue, Meryl began photographing herself, family, and friends while enrolled in a photography class taught by Cavalliere Ketchum at The University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1975, Meryl returned to New York City and studied with Lisette Model, continuing to photograph her hometown and the city around her. After working as a freelance illustrator by day, Meryl frequented and photographed the infamous New York discos. As a 1978 CETA Artist grant recipient, Meryl created a portfolio of photographs that explored her Jewish Identity for the American Jewish Congress. After CETA, Meryl began a 31-year career as an art teacher in New York City's public schools. Upon retirement from teaching, she began revealing large bodies of unseen work. Her monographs, "A Tale of Two Cities Disco Era Bushwick" and "Purgatory & Paradise SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City" (Bizarre Publishing) received international acclaim. Meryl is represented by Steven Kasher Gallery. Images by Meryl Meisler / courtesy of Steven Kasher Gallery merylmeisler.com @merylmeisler