

ROSEGALLERY

ROSEGALLERY is pleased to present *Time of Change*, an exhibition of silver gelatin prints was on view from 16 November, 2002 through 25 January, 2003. A closing reception for the artist and book signing was held on Saturday, 18 January 2002.



In 1961 Bruce Davidson traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to photograph the Freedom Riders. His experience there was the beginning of a five year entanglement with the Civil Rights Movement. Davidson's photographs, however, are not tributes to inviolate righteousness: they are a frank depiction of a tumultuous and disparate society whose future and whose character were still far from certain. The series' candor and scope belie the facile adages in which our memory of the movement risks becoming entrenched. It was undoubtedly frightening facing down policemen, firehoses, and angry mobs. But how much more terrifying must it have been to see looming behind them the immensity of history's inertia, against which one's only claim was an entitlement to a better life no one had ever substantiated? Davidson's eloquent photographs of the era are sometimes shocking, sometimes angry, and sometimes defiant. They can also be quiet, joyful, domestic, and contemplative. They encompass not only the

conditions that precipitated the Civil Rights Movement, but the ambivalence and morass of daily life that had accommodated itself to those conditions. They provide a glimpse of the reality, not so unfamiliar, from which sprang so unlikely an accomplishment. They are evidence that a time of change risks leaving behind as much as it hopes to gain, and they are a testament to the astonishing willpower of those who delineated a path of resistance.

Bruce Davidson began photographing when he was ten years old. He later won first prize in the Kodak National High School Competition. He studied at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Yale University and took photographs for Life magazine. In 1962, Davidson received a Guggenheim Fellowship and presented a one-man show at the Museum of Modern Art in 1963. In 1966, he became the first photographer to be awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Davidson's photographs have been published in New York Times Magazine, Time, Newsweek, Harper's Bizarre, Vogue, and National Geographic, among others. His books include *East 100th Street*, to be reissued later this year by St. Ann's Press, *Bruce Davidson Photographs*, *Subway*, *Subsistence USA*, *The Bridge*, *Central Park*, *Brooklyn Gang*, 1959, and *Time of Change*, recently published by St. Ann's Press. Bruce Davidson's fine art photographs are held by many museums and private collections, including Topan's "Masters of Photography," The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the George Eastman House.

ROSEGALLERY

Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Avenue, G5, Santa Monica CA 90404 310.264.8440