

Session 4

Urban Change and Renewal

Diana Tuite, Katz Curator, Colby College Museum of Art

We will focus on the ways in which these photographs of the built environment participate in a visual rhetoric of the urban (and post-urban) condition.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do these photographs negotiate the relationship between so-called “art” photography, and photojournalism? What are some of the technical and compositional strategies that these photographers employ in order to signal the status of the images?
2. How do these photographs contribute to the construction of a documentary mode? Where does authorial vision declare itself as such?
3. Where do people—our bodies and our activities, individual and collective—register in these representations of urban spaces?
4. In what ways may these images be seen to affirm or contest Ariella Azoulay’s definition of photography as an event?
5. How might we begin to think about the conditions of their production and their historical viewership?

Exhibition checklist

2013.602

Brett Weston

Demolished Building, New York

1946

Gelatin silver print

10 x 8 in. (25.4 x 20.32 cm)

Gift from the Christian Keese Collection

2011.046

Andrew Moore

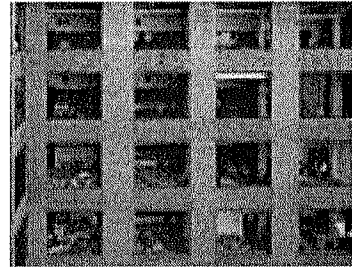
Courtyard, former Cass Technical High School building

2008

archival pigment print

45 1/2 in. x 54 1/2 in. (115.57 cm x 138.43 cm)

Gift of Barbara and Theodore Alfond



327.2008

Berenice Abbott

Father Duffy, Times Square

1937, printed later

Gelatin Silver Print

9 3/8 in. x 7 1/2 in. (23.81 cm x 19.05 cm)

Promised gift of Norma B. Marin



013.2013

Eugène Atget

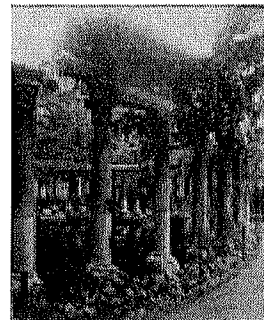
Parc Monceau

c. 1921

Gold-toned albumen print

8 1/2 in. x 7 in. (21.59 cm x 17.78 cm)

Promised gift of Norma B. Marin



Exhibition checklist

294.2008

Berenice Abbott

Exchange Place

c. 1935, printed later

Gelatin Silver Print

19 7/8 in. x 15 7/8 in. (50.48 cm x 40.32 cm)

Promised gift of Norma B. Marin



2014.021

Todd Webb

Slum Clearance, Harlem

1946

Gelatin silver print on paper

4 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. (11.43 x 16.51 cm)

Gift of the Estate of Todd Webb

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Todd Webb

Slum Clearance, Harlem

1946

Gelatin silver print on paper

4 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. (11.43 x 16.51 cm)

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