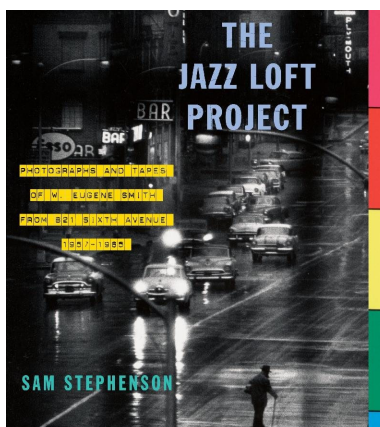


The Making of The Jazz Loft Project



A multimedia presentation by Sam Stephenson

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

7PM

BookCourt

163 Court St. (between Pacific & Dean)

Brooklyn, N.Y.

From 1957 to 1965, W. Eugene Smith exposed 1,447 rolls of film at his loft, making roughly 40,000 pictures, the largest body of work in his career, photographing the nocturnal jazz scene as well as life on the streets of the flower district, as seen from his fourth-floor window. He wired the building like a surreptitious recording studio and made 1,740 reels (4,000 hours) of stereo and mono audiotapes, capturing more than 300 musicians, among them Roy Haynes, Sonny Rollins, Bill Evans, Roland Kirk, Alice Coltrane, Don Cherry, and Paul Bley. He recorded, as well, legends such as pianists Eddie Costa, and Sonny Clark, drummers Ronnie Free and Edgar Bateman, saxophonist Lin Halliday, bassist Henry Grimes, and multi-instrumentalist Eddie Listengart.

Also dropping in on the nighttime scene were the likes of Doris Duke, Norman Mailer, Diane Arbus, Robert Frank, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Salvador Dali, as well as pimps, prostitutes, drug addicts, thieves, photography students, local cops, building inspectors, marijuana dealers, and others.

Sam Stephenson discovered Smith's jazz loft photographs and tapes eleven years ago and has spent the last seven years cataloging, archiving, selecting, and editing Smith's materials for this book, as well as writing its introduction and the text interwoven throughout.

www.jazzloftproject.org

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"(A) landmark book...This will be an essential book for jazz fans, photography lovers and those interested in the history of New York."

- **Publishers Weekly**

"A stunning cross of scholarly history and Smith's haunted photography."

-**Village Voice**

"The most chaotic and soulful gift book this year...The book is an elegiac stew of sight and sound, and a singularly weird, vital and thrumming American document."

-**The New York Times**

The Jazz Loft Project Exhibition is now on view at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center and will run through May 22, 2010. The exhibition features more than 200 of Smith's never-before-displayed vintage black-and-white prints and several hours of rarely heard audio recordings, which caught rousing jam sessions and the only known recordings of Thelonious Monk's full band rehearsals for renowned concerts at Town Hall, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall, as well as historic radio and TV broadcasts, loft conversations, and street noise.



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February 17, 2010 through May 22, 2010
Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri: 11 to 6; Mon, Thurs: 12 to 8; Sat: 10 to 6

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