



For immediate release

A New York Picture Post: Gotham in the 20th Century **Photography exhibition explores the Big Apple's allure**

September 29 – December 8, 2007
North Balcony

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PROMOTIONAL IMAGES AVAILABLE

Lawrence, KS—Famed newspaperman Meyer Berger once noted of the Big Apple that “each man reads his own meaning into New York.” Beginning September 29 and continuing through December 8, visitors to the Spencer Museum of Art explore views about the city that never sleeps through the lenses of some of the 20th century’s finest photographers, represented in ***A New York Picture Post: Gotham in the 20th Century***. The exhibition contains a number of Harlem Renaissance-era photographs, including a rare print by James Van Der Zee, that provide interesting companionship to the Spencer’s ***Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist*** exhibition.

Cultural capitol or smog-choked megalopolis? New York is a city that courts passionate opinions. Whether one notes the art scene or the crime scenes, Central Park or Central Booking, the skyscrapers or the abandoned row houses, everyone seems to have an opinion about the city that never sleeps. New York was founded as New Amsterdam in 1614, was seized by the English and renamed in 1664, and even served as capitol of the fledgling United States until 1790. In the 19th century, the city grew to become the financial and cultural capitol of the United States. Yet, it was the 20th century that witnessed the true emergence of New York in all its modern splendor.

The exhibition employs photographs from the Spencer’s collection to explore 100 years of the 20th-century New York experience. Many an important photographer has turned his or her camera toward the Big Apple and together they present a portrait of a vital, diverse, and entrancing city. *A New York Picture Post* utilizes the photographs of Van Der Zee, Alfred Stieglitz, Aaron Siskind, Walker Evans, Berenice

Abbott, Weegee, Robert Frank, Garry Winogrand, Lee Friedlander, Bill Jacobson, and many others to capture the five boroughs of New York. Love it or hate it, this portrait of the city will be on the walls of the Spencer Museum of Art throughout the fall, giving plenty of opportunities to substantiate Meyer Berger's words and read your own meaning into New York.

This exhibition was organized for the Spencer Museum of Art by guest curator Brett Knappe, former Andrew W. Mellon photography intern and KU graduate student in art history.

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Spencer Museum of Art

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Also find the Spencer...

- **On the Web:** www.spencerart.ku.edu
- **E-mail:** spencerart@ku.edu

Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 AM—5 PM

Thurs. 10 AM—9 PM

Sun. Noon—5 PM

Closed Monday

Museum Shop closes 30 minutes before the galleries close.

- **Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 PM on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.**
- **Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).**