



GALLERY
NEW YORK





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DONNA FERRATO

TriBeCa: The Collection

OPENING RECEPTION Thursday, November 14th, 2013, 6-8 pm

DURATION November 15th - January 4th, 2014

OPENING HOURS Tue - Fri 12 - 6 pm, Sat 12 - 5 pm

In the Oskar Barnack Room

Helen Marcus, Literary Portraits: Putting a Face to the Words

The TriBeCa that Donna Ferrato found when she came to live there almost twenty years ago is no longer the neighborhood that it was then, no more so than she is that same person. As a kind of release from the intense experience of her brilliant documentation of the brutality of domestic violence, Donna began to photograph the simpler life she found in the neighborhood. As she transformed one floor of an old warehouse on Leonard Street into a creative living/work space, she too was transformed. Slowly evolving from her photojournalism roots, Donna became an artist whose subject now is where she calls home. Anyone who runs across her on these downtown streets can tell you, she is seldom without her Leica. The arc of her working life has settled here; her insight and mastery of the photograph and what it reveals is evident to all.

Her book *TRIBECA* is a deeply passionate exploration of ten years of living there after 9/11, the great tragedy that marked the neighborhood as it did no other place. The familiar storefronts, the cobbled streets, the dazzling new structures are fresh again through her eye. The strollers, the families, the faces - celebrated or anonymous - blend with the half-seen ghosts of those who made TriBeCa what it is: the generations of immigrants, gangsters, captains of industry and artists who walked here. TriBeCa's old-world grace and simplicity never look better than in her balance of light and shadow. As Ferrato says, "Photographing TriBeCa has taught me to take time when looking for the light, to honor the faces and places which greet me as familiar friends. America's most historic neighborhood... despite its enduring spirit, is still in a fragile transition period. The Triangle Below Canal. Also known as TriBeCa."

Donna Ferrato is a renowned photojournalist whose seminal work on domestic violence opened up for the first time the hidden world that people did not want to confront; the corresponding book, *Living with the Enemy* went through four printings. She put the work on the cover of *Time* twice and then took the story into the White House for a private meeting with Hillary Clinton.

Ferrato has been a member of the Executive Board of Directors for the W. Eugene Smith Fund; was the President and founder of Domestic Abuse Awareness, Inc.; and is now a member of Facing Change Documenting America (FCDA). Recognized many times with professional honors (W. Eugene Smith Grant/1986; Robert F. Kennedy Award for Outstanding Covering of the Plight of the Disadvantaged/1987; International Women in Media Courage in Journalism Award/1996; Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism/2003), her favorite distinction took place on October 30, 2008, at which time the City of New York officially declared "Donna Ferrato Appreciation Day" for her work as a women's advocate, and for being in the words of the citation: "a citizen the city is proud to call one of its own."

Michael Imperioli, the actor, television writer and TriBeCa resident, has said of the photographer: "Donna Ferrato miraculously manages to capture TriBeCa from two completely distinct points of view at the same time: she can stand at a distance with the objective eye of a compassionate, awestruck outsider as well as take us inside the heart of our big city hamlet with the love and care that only a native could possibly possess. She has the ability to artfully merge these seemingly opposing vantage points into one singular, truthful, and gracefully beautiful vision."

- Rose and Jay Deutsch
Directors

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Helen Marcus has specialized in portraiture, fine art and travel ever since she started her career in photography in 1974, following almost two decades working in television. Her work has been widely published in periodicals and books both in the USA and abroad and exhibited in solo and group shows. Currently she is President Emerita of the W. Eugene Smith Fund and is a past President of the American Society of Media Photographers. She has lectured internationally on portraiture and has been an adjunct professor at the Parsons School of Design; the School of Visual Arts; and the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. Marcus' portrait of Toni Morrison was used for the image on the Swedish postage stamp honoring her as the Nobel Laureate in Literature. Her work is in the permanent collections of the National Portrait Gallery, George Eastman House and the International Center of Photography. For this exhibition of many of her iconic literary portraits, Helen Marcus has uniquely chosen quotations from the authors themselves, thus adding a new dimension to the presentation.