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ROGER MAYNE

Although it's impossible not to note this great British photographer's similarity to Helen Levitt, his fifties-era pictures of children on the street are too vivid and engaging to languish in anyone's shadow. Taken mostly in a working-class neighborhood of West London, the images capture a hardscrabble environment; the only decoration on the brick and concrete walls is chalked graffiti. Mayne is wonderfully alert to the skittering dynamics of children at play and their unself-conscious grace while at rest. If his subjects were aware of being observed, they show no sign of it, making their spontaneity all the more marvellous. Through July 21. (Gitterman, 170 E. 75th St. 212-734-0868.)

— Vince Aletti