

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Gita Lenz

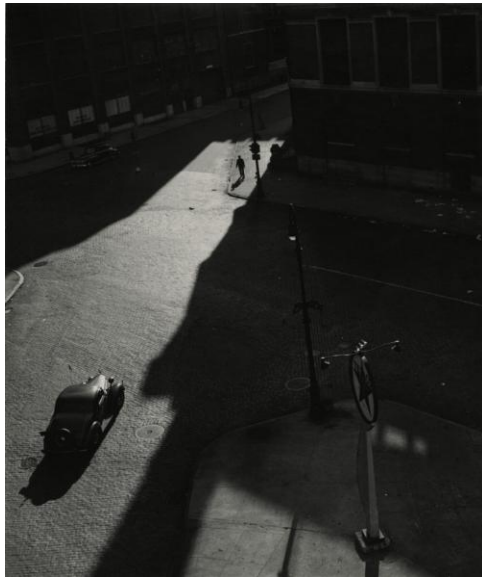
Gitterman Gallery

170 E. 75th St.

212-734-0868

Through Nov. 20

Gita Lenz, 100 years old, has now lived long enough to see "Gita Lenz," a book of the photographs she took a half-century ago, be published. Gitterman is showing 33 of her beautifully printed images, all dating from the late 1940s to the early '60s, all explorations of New York. The work was recognized at the time—exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and included in the Museum of Modern Art's 1955 "The Family of Man"—but subsequently forgotten.



Gita Lenz/Gitterman Gallery, New York

Four of the pictures are titled "Street Scene (Carmin Street & 7th Avenue, NY)" and were shot from her apartment at that address. The meticulously composed pictures explore the effects of light and shadow, and the changing patterns of pedestrians and automobiles, on that single corner in Greenwich Village.

Several pictures, such as "Cinder Blocks," "Automobile Door Handle and Cracked Glass" and "Rock Design," are modernist studies of texture and the detritus of civilization, similar to the work of her friend and mentor Aaron Siskind.

There are portraits of individuals and of groups, but some of Ms. Lenz's most interesting pictures, all untitled, are of surrogate human beings: a doll in one, a mannequin in another, a tilting bas-relief portrait medallion in a third, and also a delightful narrow-waisted paper doll suspended for some unknown purpose in a store window.