

# **Alvin Baltrop's Hidden Lives: Inside, outside, and sometimes both**

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by Jordan Arseneault on mars 29, 2011

The exhibition Alvin Baltrop: Photographs 1965-2003 at NYC's Third Streaming includes a array of haunting colour and black & white photos which occupy a liminal space between the public and the private.



On view at New York's Third Streaming (10 Greene Street, Soho) features approximately 70 black and white and colour photographs, including never-before exhibited vintage prints and rare archival materials. A series capturing the precarious nature of lives lived out on the Hudson River Piers in the 1970s and 80s; photographs of Baltrop's fellow Navy crewmen during the Vietnam War are among the works on view until Saturday, May 14, 2011.

Fueled by his attraction to the proud, self-designated subculture of New Yorkers living in the de-industrialized city of the '70s, Baltrop turned his camera towards homeless people, sex workers, and the corroding architecture and dilapidated landscape of what is now an almost forgotten Manhattan. Many of Baltrop's photographs are charged with sexuality: he created intimate portraits of male friends and caught private moments between lovers —perhaps in the form of an arm or leg, barely revealed behind a doorway, or nude figure glimpsed from afar, surrounded by splintery angles of a decaying pier. He photographed many of his subjects up close, at the cusp or in the throws of sexual passion.



Alvin Baltrop, who died in 2004 at the age of 56, is receiving more and more recognition for his photographic testimonials, which were rarely exhibited in his lifetime. Curated by Third Streaming's Yona Backer and up-and-comer Randal Wilcox, this exhibit expresses the humanity and attentiveness of a lost era, one which Baltrop's work allows us a special chance to revisit.

*Alvin Baltrop: Photographs 1965–2003*

At Third Streaming March 16 – May 14, 2011

10 Greene Street, 2nd Floor (between Grand and Canal Streets), New York City.

Hours : Wed-Fri, noon to 6 pm and Saturday, 1 pm – 6 pm. 646.370.3877.

[www.thirdstreaming.com](http://www.thirdstreaming.com)