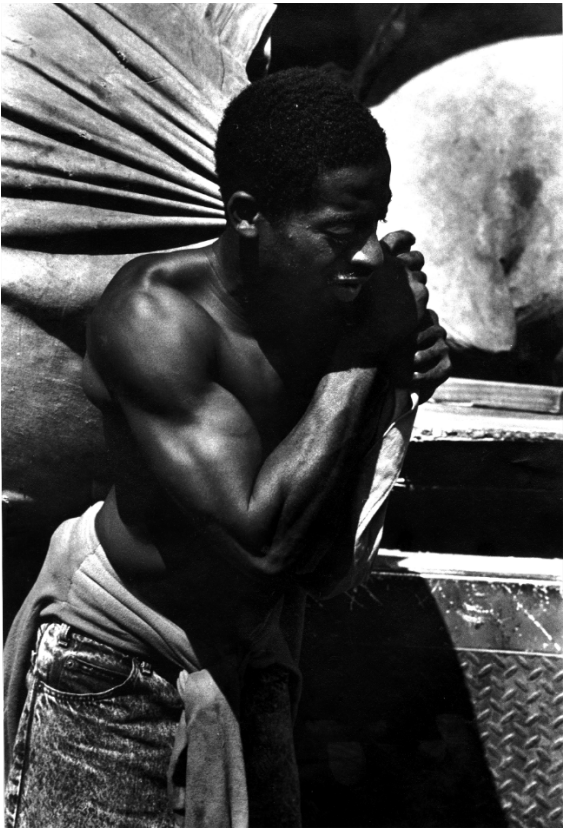


Alfred Schwartz



Alfred Schwartz was a photographer who grew up in Brooklyn NY. He was born in 1918 and died in 1994. He was the only surviving son of immigrant Jews from Romania, who left their native country for Brooklyn, New York

He was friends with Sid Grossman and and Lisette Model, and her husband Evsa. He was active in the NY photo scene, but largely avoided promoting his own work. He was a dentist by trade, and an enthusiastic fisherman. He was methodical about cataloging his images; every photo had the year, film roll and printing instructions. Schwartz was very progressive, and his work was informed by his personal ethics, which gave him a commanding vision of a strong social and political context in all his work. As the son of immigrants who came here in search of a more equitable life, his response to his surroundings represented the hope for a better society



1992

As an artist of the 1950’s until his death in 1994, his dedication and love for the New York area and beyond, are exemplified by his expansive output and oeuvre, and the extraordinary ability to relate to his subjects and get the shot. He was deeply respectful of his subjects and would often talk with them at length about their craft and trade. In reviewing the negatives and prints, there are countless images of blue collar workers, farmers with Schwartz’s deep reverence for the working class. His images of NYC reflect the place that he saw every day, without varnish or misrepresentation. The work frequently alluded to the commercial and graphic, with many images of cigarette and alcohol billboards placed in a decaying NYC. His personal wit always drove his conceptual framework.

He traveled to Costa Rica and Mexico, as well, revealing a deep affinity for all people of the world.



1972, Canal Street





Continental Army Plaza, Roebling Street, Brooklyn NY 1984

Schwartz was born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. His father was a butter and egg distributor in New York State and purchased a home in Sea Gate Brooklyn. The proximity to the sea was an important touchstone for him, creating an understanding and love for the natural world and especially for the sea.

Later in life, his directive was in minimal landscapes, and of his beloved Long Island Sound.



North Fork, Long Island

In the context of the North Fork of Long Island, expanded his vision to nature; both brutal and peaceful. His final photograph was of the sea meeting the sky.



The Last Picture



Alfred Schwartz

1918-1994

Studied with Lisette Model and Sid Grossman

Permanent Collection, Eastman Museum, Rochester NY



1959

Gelatin silver print

Image: 25 x 34.3 cm

Museum accession

1971

Solo Exhibition, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, 1978

Winner Juried Photography Show, Parish Art Museum, Southampton, NY, Judged by Irving Penn and Roy Lichtenstein, 1979

Solo Exhibition, East End Arts Council, Riverhead, NY 1981

Solo Exhibition, Patchogue Library, Riverhead, NY 1983

Solo Exhibition, Custer Institute, Southold, NY 1985

Solo Exhibition, Islip Arts Council 1987

Solo Exhibition, Smithtown Arts Council 1988

Group Show, North Setauket, 1988

Solo Exhibition, Animal Rescue House, Wainscott, NY 1988

Three Man Show, Suffolk Community College, Riverhead, NY 1989