

Larry Fink:

Attraction and Desire

Foreword and Afterword by Larry Fink
Essay by Olivia Lahs-Gonzales

The Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis, 2011

Larry Fink: Attraction and Desire - 50 Years in Photography is published by the Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis, in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name in the History of Jazz Gallery and the Gallery of Photography of the Sheldon Art Galleries, February 18 - May 21, 2011.

The exhibition is underwritten by Luxco, with additional support from Barbara and Arthur McDonnell and Ellen and Durb Curlee.

The catalogue *Larry Fink: Attraction and Desire - 50 Years in Photography* is copyright © The Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis. Photographs and Larry Fink's foreword and afterword are copyright © Larry Fink. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval, without permission in writing from the Sheldon Art Galleries.

ISBN: 978-0-578-07738-3

Lulu ID: 10020970

Cover Image: © Larry Fink, *Club Cornich*, New York, February, 1977

Back cover: © Larry Fink, *Belly Dance School*, March, 1963

Photo, Page 1: © Larry Fink, *New York City*, May, 1961

Photo, Page 3: © Larry Fink, *Katie Holmes, Oscar Party*, February, 2007

Cover Design: Gayle Van Dyke; Book interior: Olivia Lahs-Gonzales

The not-for profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national, and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history, and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and a street-level gallery features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.



The Sheldon Art Galleries
3648 Washington Boulevard
Saint Louis, Missouri, 63108
Telephone: 314.533.9900 Fax: 314. 533.2958
Website: www.thesheldon.org/galleries.asp

**Larry
Fink:**

**Attraction
and
Desire**



Foreword

My life has been crazed with sensation, gorged by passion, clouded by desire, enlightened by both the bowel and the brain; it has been political, never polemical; it has been wanton never woeful, impacted with hope and drive, saddened by loss and social dread. It has been a life like none other and like all others. I have been there and am still going.

The pictures are a reflection and a direct result of reflective and overt realities. They are meant to give you insight and pleasure, all the while affording you quasi revulsion and offensive impact; they are never meant to be cruel, and they are always meant to be intimate, sensual, and palpably alive...

I trust you to trust yourselves while responding and to carry the weight of your heart into action.

Larry Fink, 2011



Attraction and Desire: Larry Fink's Life in Photography

Essay by Olivia Lahs-Gonzales

*"I photograph because I live. I want to contribute that passion of living to posterity in the best way I can."*¹

My first experience of Larry was when I heard his piano playing drifting up from the lobby of my hotel as I descended the stairs to meet him on the first day of my visit to his farm and studio outside of Easton, Pennsylvania. The farm, where he has lived since 1974, is a compound of several buildings, one of which houses his studio and archives and the studio of his partner and wife of 19 years, the sculptor Martha Posner. Surrounding the house, a portion of which was built in 1750, are woods, saucer-sized dahlias, bamboo stands, and a menagerie of animals (an emu, a llama, a horse, guinea hens, chickens, doves, tropical fish, a turtle, a dog, cats and toads, among other beasts), some roaming, others penned. Found-object sculptures find their place on fences and between bushes. The house itself is cozy – full of collections of rocks and shells, dolls, more found objects, paintings and drawings by friends and colleagues, and subtly, in between it all, the occasional classic Fink photograph is hung with a self-effacing lack of pomp.

Larry Fink is a man who clearly enjoys the physicality and sensuality of the world around him. Passionate and outspoken with an impish nature, he enjoys good food and earthly delights. Having come of age in the beat generation, Fink has retained that sensibility. His written correspondence takes the shape of a beat poem or a jazz lick, but the images he creates with the camera are drawn from multi-layered influences. Emanating from a passionate psyche, they are also informed by a deep understanding and appreciation of the history of art. Though photographic influences, like Henri Cartier-Bresson, André Kertész, Brassai, Robert Frank, and Lisette Model, his teacher, played a role in the formation of Fink's early vision, sparks of Goya, Daumier (a print by the artist hangs in Fink's studio), and George Grosz, the atmosphere of a Caravaggio and the psychology of a Rembrandt, can also be found in his luminous and theatrical works.

Early Work

*"The pictures I take now and tomorrow and yesterday are about human events on a small order. I try to make them bigger, to make them into metaphors that might speak across the board."*²

– Larry Fink, 1998

Born in 1941 and raised on Long Island, New York, in a leftist, middle-class, Jewish home, Fink began experimenting with photography when he was 13. Art and music were formative ingredients in young Fink's development. Jazz music filled his house, and his parents were supportive of his early endeavors in photography. His father, Bernard, bought him a Rolliflex and provided entrance into an artistic milieu – an insurance man, his clients included Raphael and Moses Soyler, among other artists. His mother, Sylvia, also supported her son's artistic endeavors and felt art should be used in service of social change. She was the one who, in around 1960, encouraged him to study with the photographer Lisette Model, who is known for her uncompromising portraits of French bourgeoisie and for her gritty photographs of the streets and jazz clubs of New York City.³

An Austrian Jew, Model had fled Europe in 1938 and was working freelance in New York, teaching at the New School for Social Research, and offering private lessons. Others who studied with Lisette Model include Diane Arbus, Leon Levinstein, John Gossage, and Rosalind Solomon, among many other luminaries, in whose photographs can be seen aspects of Model's aesthetic and social principles. Model's instruction was philosophical, not technical: "Photography starts with the projection of the photographer, his understanding of life and himself into the picture," she once remarked – a philosophy that Fink has embraced in his work.⁴ She underscored the importance of illuminating intrinsically human qualities like desire, power and vulnerability within human interchange, and encouraged Fink to focus on these basic human elements, which could be made evident through the photographic arrest of a gesture or expression. The power of Fink's images stems from his ability to intuitively freeze moments that are pregnant with psychological import.

During this time, Fink also attended a few workshops held by Alexey Brodovich, the Russian-born art director of *Harper's Bazaar*. A graphic designer, Brodovich integrated contemporary painting and photography into his design spectrum and brought a fresh new look to magazine layouts. He revolutionized magazine design by employing atypical juxtapositions of images, a bold use of typography and innovative cropping, to create a magazine whose pages were animated. Brodovich began teaching in the 1930s, after he moved from Paris to the United States. Formed in 1941, his Design Laboratory at the New School for Social Research, where Lisette Model also taught, became immensely popular. Brodovich was the mentor of many influential photographers, among them Richard Avedon and Irving Penn. Fink, who came from a left-thinking, anti-establishment perspective, did not subscribe to Brodovich's aesthetic or the magazines that he worked for, which he regarded as pandering to the wealthy, so his experience of the workshops was not a positive one and he left halfway through the course.⁵



Cedar Bar, New York City, ca. 1961-1962

In these early years, Fink photographed on the streets of New York, Las Vegas, London and Paris, and through dark, evocative, 35-millimeter camera images, show us how humanity negotiates a terrain of urban grit. In these moody photographs of the denizens of dark streets, illuminated cafés, busses and subways, we see people alone in the crowd. Captured before these cities were sanitized for tourism, the images present a viewpoint sympathetic to the alienation often encountered in the urban environment. In viewing Fink's theatre of the disaffected and the joyful, we feel what he feels. His intimate connection with his subjects and close vantage point allows us to submerge ourselves in the psyche of the subject. Though these images have an affinity to the work of William Klein or Robert Frank, whose seminal 1959 book *The Americans* Fink had acquired in the year of its American debut, Fink's carry an empathy that

neither Frank nor Klein share. Ambivalent about Frank's work in *The Americans*, he admitted that he "both hated and loved" it for its "ungenerous" attitude.⁶

Concurrently, Fink joined a group of what he terms "second generation" beatniks, who "were more crazed, more depressed, more engaged with their sense within quasi-history; destined to be holy sphincters on the horizon, to be representative of the spiritual search, to be using drugs of all kinds in order to enter the universe and another level of personal consciousness..."⁷ Taken with a medium format camera, these works have a different feel from his street photographs and emphasize the observational role that he played. One senses that, though he was an accepted member of the group, he acted as the recorder of deeds rather than an immersed participant. In these romantic and intimate photographs, Fink tracks the renegade lives of his friends, who seem very much aware of the power of the camera.

Somewhere There's Music

"Music, foul and growling, dark, round and tranquil, long and clear. It is for me the river of life. It feeds me on the deepest level. I wish to share with all, the majesty of being witness to sound."

– Larry Fink, *Somewhere There's Music*, 2006

Music is at the center of much of Fink's daily life. In his living room, a grand piano, a cello, and several jazz instruments are at hand, ready for an impromptu concert. Harmonica always in pocket, he interjects riffs into conversation... dinner... lectures. An accomplished pianist, Fink grew up in a music-filled house and ventured into New York jazz clubs when he was still in high school. "I entered behind the beat, two days late and wailing, born into a family of social radicals and pleasure seekers. The folks swung and danced through three or four major decades of music. Throw in some Leadbelly and lighting and the ears of a hungry innocent were fed with profuse profundity."⁸

In 2006, Fink compiled his visual history in music in a traveling exhibition and book, *Somewhere There's Music*. Sensitive and intimate, the photographs exude sound. Unlike the famous jazz photographs of William Gottlieb or Herman Leonard, who are icon-makers, Fink's images show the performers as human and vulnerable. Memorable are his photographs of a beautiful young woman enraptured by music, Jimmy Rushing in a contemplative mood at a recording studio session, and Roland Kirk kissing and playing the hand of his baby, who is in the arms of its mother. In these, we see the humanity behind the fame. Fink peppers the undulating, cyclic sequence with abstracted details that act as counterpoints to the human melody. In these photographs, music becomes physical. We feel it in the attitudes of the players – their bodies in ecstasy – bent, bowed, exploding with the force of it. We also feel Fink enveloped by the music and are enveloped ourselves.

Social Graces

“People like to have their pictures taken. Some will endure the pain of flash-blindness because recorded experience is somehow more important to them than actual experience. It is a profound aspect of our culture, this compulsion for proof. It allows me to wade into a party. Once inside, a physical bonding between them and me forms; objectivity and self portraiture exchange places. When I walk around in a tuxedo and tap my toes I'm a fancy dude. When I walk around Martins Creek, I'm a rolling country belly.”

– Larry Fink, *Social Graces*, 1982/1991

In 1968, Fink was commissioned to photograph the centennial ball at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was during this time that he moved towards what would become his signature style. Using a handheld flash to wash his subjects in *chiaroscuro*, then printing so the harshest flash highlights were mellowed into fleshy sculptural tones, Fink helps us to become witness to the complexity and theatricality of human interaction. Already evident in his early photographs is his masterful ability to capture the spontaneous choreography of bodies, among them a photograph of an African-American couple in a loving, dance-like interchange. (p. 32)

The photographer offers us the chance to feel “within” the images. Fink is generous. We never have the feeling that we are closed out, or looking in from outside as a voyeur might. Instead, the images are wide open, sensual and inviting. Perhaps because Fink is as much a participant in as a recorder of this dance of life, that can also be viewed as a dance of death, that the images invite us to also be in them. His photographs of the upper levels of society provide a complex layered view that is both scathing and empathetic. On one hand, they are a harsh indictment of vanity, gluttony and avarice – Bosch in the guise of a Caravaggio – but they also reveal the photographer's awareness of his own place as an active member of the “scene.” He underscores this in his recounting of a moment at one such event when a fellow photographer pulled him aside and asked him to take a pedantic “recorded experience” photograph of himself, a request that Fink rejected with disgust.⁹

The photographs that make up *Social Graces* are taken at two polar opposites of the social spectrum. A section of the book is given over to images that Fink made at a variety of museum and gallery parties. They show beautiful people engaging in frivolity, but also reveal how they too succumb to the frailties of human nature.

Photographs of cavorting masses, doll-like visages and unreal bosoms are punctuated and punctured by deeply felt revelations – the lost and vacant expression of a woman captured in embrace, a glowing fist on a chest, or the long-fingered hands of a man on the back of a woman, whose golden locks are sculptural and shimmering.



Peter Beard Opening, International Center of Photography, November 1977

These photographs serve as a companion to, and in dialogue with, an equally tender, yet also excoriating body of work on Fink's longtime Martins Creek neighbors, the Sabatine family. In 1974, Fink and his then wife, the painter Joan Snyder purchased a farm in remote rural Pennsylvania. He first met the patriarch, John Sabatine, when he needed an inexpensive lawn mower. Sabatine had many, rotting and rusting in a backyard wasteland of detritus. After several years of friendship with the Sabatines, Fink's image-making became a natural part of their relationship. Invited to cookouts, birthday and graduation parties and other rites of passage, Fink's acceptance into the "tribe" allowed him to make intimate and revealing portraits of this sometimes fractious family. As in his photographs of society players, in the Sabatines he found himself in the other and the other in himself.¹⁰

Fashion and Hollywood

"When substance is dead, style lives on. Our world is ultimately licensing spiritual banishment. Identity is a word on the logo of your jacket. Capital is the revolution of the future. Justice awaits at the crossroads of infirmity. The world of fashion was and is mine to play; to lie in wait and prey, to lie awake and pray. Thanks to all for the inner access to the glory of the glut."

– Larry Fink, *Runway*, 2000

A natural offshoot of the society photographs found in *Social Graces*, Fink's foray into the world of fashion and Hollywood peels back the transparent, crackling layer of artifice that forms the basis of the end products that we see in the glistening pages of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*, on the runways during fashion week, and in the daily Hollywood newsmagazines.

Perhaps even more devastating in some ways than his photographs in *Social Graces*, Fink's fashion images go backstage to find real beauty underneath the manufactured: grace in the face of a veiled model or in a tender gesture to the eye of a blonde Madonna-like figure, who glows in the light of a flash surrounded by dark pressing throngs. True intensity, vulnerability and in particular, human-ness, are the things we normally do not see in fashion photography's end-products, but Fink makes them present here.

His Hollywood photographs, commissioned by *Vanity Fair* magazine, do not offer a sugarcoated, Vaseline-lensed celebrity, iconic perfection, nor are they images of a callous paparazzi. In these photographs, Fink captures the human moments to be found in a world of perfected artifice. The images are penetrating, but also loving, and reverential. These in particular are about raw sensuality and desire – the beautiful back of a starlet embraced in the glow of Fink's off-camera flash, or a kiss stolen while a fellow partygoer sleeps in a chair nearby, echo Fink's own appetites and desires. Yet, neither does he let his subjects off the hook. Fink exposes imperfections and creates them – illuminating the lines and lumps of bodies not entirely picture-perfect, and imposing his own shadow on that of a passing partygoer—underscoring his, and photography's, role in this theatre of pretense. Fink's lighting and printing techniques intensify the fleshy, corporeality of the figures. The images are about the physicality and the psychology of being.

Boxing and Politics

"How many of us would train six hours a day – train not just for strength, but for armor, for the twist of the muscle that makes it invulnerable and pliant simultaneously? Train so that on the way to the battle our tools will stand the test, our body will prevail? Such a personal way to inflict injury, so intimate is the contest for egos and skills fighting for primary dominance throughout the history of the world."

– Larry Fink, *Boxing*, 1997

Fink has found personal voice in each of his commissioned projects and never separates the "art" from the "job." Often, commissions blossom into larger, personal projects. Somehow, the fact that Fink was asked to produce a series of photographs on boxing is no anomaly. The series, shot over 10 years between 1987 and 1997, which culminated in a book and exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, began with an assignment from *Manhattan, Inc.*, who sent him to a small gym in Catskill, New York. The subject captured his imagination and he spent the next decade visiting small gyms in the Philadelphia area, photographing to the memory-sounds of childhood radio boxing broadcasts.¹¹ The dramas that he captured there were visceral and psychological. These small gyms, whose denizens

are not the Don King superstars, but those who come to find physical release, fraternity and hope, also have a rich psychological life. In these images, Fink found beauty and grace. This beauty is not of the model kind, but instead can be found in the rough, sweaty grandeur that is the glistening, sculptural back of a Zeus-like figure, an enveloping satin hood, or a boxer transformed by a beatific touch into the image of a saint.

Politics is a lot like boxing. Opponents spar and jab while the mass media plays referee. In 2008, Larry Fink went “backstage” for a series of photographs commissioned by *Vanity Fair* magazine during the presidential campaigns of Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama. It is no surprise that Fink did not record the official “photo-op” moments expected of press corps journalists. Instead we see images of Hilary Clinton caught in an awkward, stooping kiss or whisper, the adoring face of a woman regarding an encircled Obama onboard his campaign airplane, and the future president, exuding palpable charisma, rising like a demigod out of a sea of humanity. Like his fashion or Hollywood photographs, Fink uncovers those moments in which the guard is let down and the inner being, however flawed, escapes.

Collectively, Fink’s images of partying socialites and Hollywood celebrities, fashion models and even boxers, can be seen as a monumental *danse macabre*, or dance of death. Like its late-mediaeval allegorical counterpart that portrays figures from all walks of life, from lowly laborers to kings and papal majesties, Fink’s images, in some ways, remind us similarly of the fragility and vanity of earthly life.

Travels and Commissions

“The moment that we have is the only moment we will ever have, insofar as it is fleeting. Every breath counts. So does every moment and perception. It’s a way to be alive. I am involved with the idea of reaching deeply into the pulsing matter of what it means to be alive and being vulnerable and seeing if I can cast an emotional legacy about being human.”¹²

– Larry Fink, 2011

The state of the human condition is a theme that plays through images that Fink has taken on a variety of travels, and in the greater body of his work. In the late 1980s, after the success of his *Social Graces* project and following the dissolution of his marriage to Joan Snyder, Fink spent time in Europe. There he captured images that were not typical travelogues, but instead recorded the small but important moments between people, and the poetics of place. In one image from a *Condé Nast Traveler* assignment, an ancient woman in the Côte d’Azur, France looks up at her caretaker, whose attentive face Fink places slightly out of focus in the far upper right corner, almost outside the picture plane. The woman, a nonagenarian, was once an important member of the Rivieran social world, but now lives in a villa surrounded only by her caretakers and staff.¹³ Another photograph taken in the same year captures a heightened moment between a man and a woman at a dining room table. His eyes are downcast and she appears to be anticipating his next words. In these photographs, Fink does not use artificial light, but instead makes use of existing illumination, and plays with shadow, framing and depth of field to elucidate the state of mind of both the photographer and his subject.

In 1997, the Ministry of Culture of Matosinhos, Portugal hired Fink to “create a photographic record, historic and interpretive, of the two ways of life.”¹⁴ In the resulting images, Fink reveals the power of the collective to move work and life forward. Young and old participate to create the blood-dark wine, the grapes of which are harvested, pressed and celebrated in their final liquid form. Fink’s photograph of a



France, July, 1988

young boy carrying a basket of grapes up an incline in a field is powerful and devastating. We feel the exertion in his penetrating gaze. On the same trip, Fink also rendered disturbingly real Christian religious figures. He illuminates them in such a way that the fleshy, human sculptures seem to carry the light of the spirit that they were made to exemplify. These sculptures are animated in the same way that his photographs of people are sculptural.

Another important commission that resulted in a formidable publication, shared and paired with the work of the photographer Andrew Moore, was to photograph the work and workforce of the Cleveland Clinic. In these, Fink moves in as close as he can to his subjects, choreographing within the frame their interpersonal dances. Nurses, doctors, and other support staff are illuminated by Fink's glowing light, which arrests movement and forms images that can only be compared to Old Master paintings. We feel the emotion of both the subjects and the photographer as he moves within hospital culture and unfolds life and death dramas and quotidian moments enclosed within vast, institutional architecture.

Home and Family

“Death is silent. The body, sodden, is swept up in decompositions quiet process. This renders deaths grave message as part of the organic nature of all physical things but doesn't take into consideration memory, which is based on life's movement. Life has a miraculous power to transform the everyday into tides of spiritual intelligence. The soul lives on within the memory of the living. Memories do not decompose, they transform within time and the spirit floating through interpretative cognition. Memory is held for as long as those living are allowed to live. In each aftermath we have more and more souls to care for. Eternity is never cheap.”¹⁵

– Larry Fink, 2010

Perhaps the most moving and illuminating are Fink's photographs taken of his home and family over the decades. These images are unabridged – raw and exposed, sweet and tender. They take us through the decades of his life and relationships that have included three wives, his only child, and a large, extended family. Too often, Fink is known and judged only by his “society” photographs, which provide only one layer of this complex artist's vision. In this body of



Self Portrait with Molly, October 1982

work there are wrenchingly personal photographs of his parents and grandparents, and images of his daughter Molly, the first which is visceral and raw as she makes her powerful presence known in the world. Another voluptuously lit image, taken a few months later, places baby Molly reverently amongst her toys like a sacred being in a Renaissance painting.

Self-portraits too have found a consistent place in his artistic expression. Compelling and tender is the self portrait that captures a moment of bliss as his wife Martha embraces and kisses him. Another shows him with his now-toddler daughter – he looking slightly unsure – she confronting the camera head-on with fist extended. There are also lovely images of the family's presence in his life – his daughter's toys, a dinner plate, his dog and a glowing silver radiator that serves as a foreground to a view of his first wife, Joan Snyder, drying her hair. Then there are the portraits, which are full of unguarded moments – his mother crowned by Rhododendrons, Martha on the floor of their home playing with their dog, his sister Lizzie in the hospital, and activists Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers, and his mother Sylvia, on a couch.

These images, into which the photographer has poured his soul and asks us to participate, provide us with a generous glimpse into the life and mind of the photographer and his kin.

Primal Elegance

"I found them at home, in the fields and on the sills of each window, hanging as predators do, waiting for prey – still life thrusting, going through its cycle. It has been five months on my knees, three hours each day, camera in hand searching for images that allow me entry in a world where I cannot be. I am large, but they are larger than me. I have been awed; I have been frightened. I lay waiting, trying to enter into their ravenous avidity. I photographed from the inside not the outside; I became what I beheld!"

– Larry Fink, *Primal Elegance*, 2005

The flora and fauna in and around Fink's farm is another little-known subject of his investigations. Poetic and sensual, with touches of the sublime, Fink captures low, dark notes in photographs of plants, insects and animals that have surrounded him there for 36 years. The images of vegetation and insects, like praying mantises and bees, are primal studies of the microcosm that is macrocosm. In the fecund, leafy undergrowth, are found miniaturized versions of human dramas that are both beautiful and terrible.

Fink followed several mantises on his property for two years, capturing their "primal elegance." In these images, Fink crawls into the world of the mantises, photographing them stalking prey and copulating through the canopies of vegetation. The undergrowth itself has also been a topic of discovery for Fink. He captures windfall pears, winding plant-life, his tiny dog, Rose, in a nest of long grasses, and a bumble bee magnified to fantastical proportions. There are also close-up studies of flypaper on which flies are fixed in their last writhing death agonies – a comment, perhaps, on the human condition in this time of conflict and war.

Fink's photographs have soul. They mirror our attractions and desires, exude generosity and passion, they are opinionated and uncompromising, as is he. These images, for they are images as much as they are photographs, show us our true nature as fractious beings, inclined to avarice, gluttony, pride and lust, among other biblical offenses, but also reveal our distinctly human ability for sensitivity, humor, hope, and foremost, empathy.



Mantis, October 1978

Biography

Larry Fink has been a professional photographer for 50 years. He has had one man shows in New York at the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of Modern Art; the San Francisco Museum of Art; the Musée de la Photographie, Belgium; and the Musée de l'Elysee in Lausanne, Switzerland, among others. He regularly exhibits in galleries in New York, Los Angeles and Paris, France. Along with two John Simon Guggenheim Fellowships in 1976 and 1979, and two National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Photography Fellowships in 1978 and 1986, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the College for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design, Detroit, 2002. He regards himself as a "working photographer," not a "rarified artist" and approaches his commercial work both as an artist and a worker.¹⁶ In addition to larger commissioned projects, Fink has produced work for commercial clients like Smirnoff, Bacardi, Cunard, *Vanity Fair*, *W*, *GQ*, *Detour*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *The New Yorker*, who hire him for his distinctive visual imprint.

In addition to making a successful living as an artist and commercial photographer, Fink is also an influential educator. His teaching philosophy is generous: he is not one to psychologically eviscerate his students, but instead supports their exploratory successes and failures. He has taught at the Yale University School of Art, New Haven; Cooper Union School of Art and Architecture, New York; Parsons School of Design, New York; and Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, and served for the last 16 years as a professor of photography at Bard College. His books include: *Social Graces* (Aperture, 1984); second edition, (PowerHouse Books, 2001); *Boxing* (PowerHouse Books, 1997); *Fish and Wine*, (Lafayette College, 1997); *Runway* (PowerHouse Books, 2000); *The Forbidden Pictures* (PowerHouse Books, 2004); *Larry Fink* (Phaidon, 2005); *Primal Elegance* (Lodima Press, 2006); *Somewhere There's Music* (Damiani Editore, 2006), and forthcoming, *The Vanities: Hollywood Parties from 2000 to 2009* (Schirmer-Mosel, 2011). His works are included in numerous important public collections including the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia; and the Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi, Belgium.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Larry Fink for his humor, generosity and openness, to Martha Posner for her kind hospitality; studio assistants Dani Bogenhagen, Sasha Phyers-Burgess, and David Soffe, and Sheldon Art Galleries Summer 2010 Gallery Intern Lisa Helker for their hard work on behalf of the exhibition; Chris Peimann, essay editor and Director of Marketing at The Sheldon; Rebecca Gunter, Gallery Manager and Education Coordinator; and graphic designer Gayle Van Dyke for her dynamic cover design. The exhibition and publication would not have been possible without the generous underwriting from Luxco, with additional support from Barbara and Arthur McDonnell, and Ellen and Durb Curlee.

Notes

¹ Robert Simons, "Interview with Larry Fink," *Pocko Blog*, Wednesday, April 21, 2010, <http://pocko-people.blogspot.com/2010/04/interview-with-larry-fink.html>. (5-18-10).

² Larry Fink, interviewed by Jowita Kepa, Tim Saltarelli and Phil Brideaux, "Interview with Larry Fink," Toronto, Canada: Ryerson University, November, 20, 1998, <http://www.imagearts.ryerson.ca/imagesandideas/pages/interview.cfm?page=195>.

³ Laurie Dahlberg, *Larry Fink* (London and New York: Phaidon, 2005), n.pag. (essay, par. 8).

⁴ Lisette Model as quoted in Ann Thomas, "Model the Teacher, 1949-1983" in *Lisette Model* (National Gallery of Canada and New York: International Center of Photography, 1990), 118.

⁵ Email correspondence with the artist, December 20, 2010.

⁶ Dahlberg, n.pag. (par.6).

⁷ Larry Fink, commentary on series of photographs, published in the online magazine *Visura*, "The Beats: Larry Fink," *Visura Magazine*, Issue 7, January, 2010, <http://www.visuramagazine.com/vm/the-beats-larry-fink>.

⁸ Larry Fink, untitled foreword, *Somewhere There's Music*, essay by George E. Panichas (Bologna, Italy: Damiani Editore, 2006) n.pag.

⁹ Conversation with the artist, October 24, 2010.

¹⁰ "The pictures are taken in the spirit of finding myself in the other or finding the other in myself." Larry Fink, original 1982 foreword (published as an afterword in the 2001 edition of *Social Graces*) in Larry Fink, *Social Graces*, essay by Max Kozloff (New York: Powerhouse Books, 2001), 119.

¹¹ Dahlberg, n.pag. (par. 20). Larry Fink also relates his memories of boxing on the radio in an interview published on a *New York Times* web blog: "I used to listen to the Friday night fights. We were people of the left. Boxing was a symbolic sport for people who were underdogs to come up and prove themselves triumphant and powerful. When I got older, I would watch a boxing match on television and find my adrenaline building to a point where my heart palpitations would start and I would have to turn away from the screen. I guess the latent aggression was flamed by the stimulus." From Larry Fink and Adriana Theresa, "A Moment with Larry Fink," *New York Times Lens Blog*, January 5, 2011 (1/6/10).

¹² "A Moment with Larry Fink," (1/6/11).

¹³ Dahlberg, notes to plate 20.

¹⁴ George E. Panichas, "Fish and Wine: Larry Fink's Photographs of Portugal" in *Larry Fink: Fish and Wine* (Easton, Pennsylvania: Lafayette College, 1997), 5.

¹⁵ Larry Fink, "Death," Blog Entry, Wednesday, March 10, 2010, <http://larryfink.blogspot.com/2010/03/d-e-t-h-death-is-silent.html> (1/4/11).

¹⁶ Dahlberg, n.pag. (par. 19).