

Wall Label For
Stephen Deutch exhibition
1962

Stephen Deutch was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1908. He attended the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, studying sculpture, and worked for three years as an apprentice in a woodcarving shop. In Budapest his work was exhibited in many galleries. In 1926 he made Paris his permanent address and travelled extensively in Europe. It was in 1933 that photography became the principal medium of his expression.

In 1936 he opened his Chicago studio and began working with many national magazines and educational institutions. The first large showing of his photographs (of Mexico) was held at The Chicago Public Library in 1939^{and} in 1958 the Library exhibited his Bench Sitters of Chicago which was highly successful. At present he is working on a photographic book concerned with Chicago ^{which} ~~and this~~ will be published next fall.

No one has caught, in a pictorial form, the spirit and elusive characteristics of Chicago better than Stephen Deutch. Although the pictures in this exhibition (which have never been shown before) will have ~~an~~ appeal to anyone from anywhere, to the Chicagoan they will communicate messages so special that he will enjoy them in much the same way as some surprising confidence or revelation made by a friend he has known for a long time. The bringing together of the old and the new - that phenomenon of the great city in any period of the world's history - with all its amazing inventions arising from the most ordinary subjects, is here in expressive abundance. Chicago, ^{regarded by} ~~which~~ so many ~~as~~ as the most characteristic of American cities, in these pictures reveals itself to be a gold mine of material for the photographer. Photography which has the greatest claim to being an independent art is that which is free of the qualities of painting or ~~any~~ other art media and Stephen Deutch has used the camera with natural understanding of what it can accomplish better than any ~~other~~ instrument of visual expression.

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This happy choice of medium is employed for the revelation of a personality which is sympathetic and deeply attached to humanity. Even when not present in these windows and doors, people are always sensed as having inhabited these scenes and ~~there~~ they are always there, somewhere in the shadows. Persons and situations which might have been sinister, grim or dull, if the usual stale social messages had been intended, are balanced and made to live with a humane drollery so that we feel we have glimpsed in these pictures - and in its sincerest appearance - that ever changing quality we speak of as truth.