

PRISON & THE FREE WORLD
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
DANNY LYON











Although five of the photographs in this exhibition were reproduced in the April 1969 number of ESQUIRE, this is the first public showing of any of them. The prison subjects, taken in penal institutions in Texas, are scheduled for early publication as a book by the Macmillan Company which will also issue another volume by Danny Lyon of photographs depicting the destruction of Lower Manhattan, a project which was sponsored by the State Department of New York.

Born in Brooklyn in 1942, Danny Lyon spent most of his early life in Queens. During his college years at the University of Chicago, where he studied ancient history, he began riding motorcycles and photographing the world of the motorcycle rider. The motorcycle scene was largely the subject of his first one-man show at The Art Institute of Chicago in 1966. He subsequently authored the text of a book of these photographs entitled The Bikeriders which was published by Macmillan in 1968.

His work has been published in DU (Zurich, Switzerland), TRI-QUARTERLY (Northwestern University), and The Movement (also brought out in England under the title, A Matter of Colour). Examples of his photographs are owned by The Art Institute of Chicago and The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In 1968 Danny Lyon became a member of Magnum Photos, Inc., the agency which claims some of the world's most prominent photographers. In March of the present year he was awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation when he presented his unprecedented work done in penal institutions in 1968 and 1969.

With this final series his accomplishment reaches a higher and stronger level in the development of a career which, ever since its beginning, has been courageous, stimulating, and revealing. His fidelity to the principles of the photographic medium, his unprejudiced approach to truth, and his moving concern for humanity, all justify his position and influence as a unique and original young American photographer.











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Textual information, likely a description or introduction to the photographic series.









ROBERT POTTINGER