

ROGER VAIL was born in Chicago twenty-four years ago. He studied at the school of The Art Institute of Chicago, of which he is a graduate, and in June of this year was awarded the George D. Brown Fellowship. His photographs have been shown at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, as well as in the exhibition, Young Photographers, 1968, at Purdue University, and as part of a travelling exhibition, People of Illinois, organized by the Illinois Council of the Arts. At present he works as photographer for the Department of Urban Renewal of Chicago.

In subject matter his attention has been attracted to finding those overlooked details which reveal the elements of individuality and the unusual to be found in the everyday and commonplace. His representation of American youth has its setting in automobile shows at the Chicago Amphitheatre and Navy Pier, U.S. 30 Dragstrip in Gary, Indiana or Great Lakes Dragway in Union Grove, Wisconsin. The excessively publicized milieu of hippies, gangs, and the artificial paradise are left behind and we look towards what Whitman called "the excellence of the average". As in the novels of Charles Portis, all is simple and strong - the complications are within and animate the whole. He has made a gallery of portraits of motors and the machine is no longer an anti-human monster but an elegant object of human expression. His originality is never obtrusive or pretentious but is so well distributed in his work - through his perception, his printing, his selection - that one does not have to bother about whether or not it is there.

LARRY McPHERSON was born in 1943 in Newark, Ohio. After studying mathematics at Ohio State University for four years, he moved to Rochester, New York, to study at the Rochester Institute of Technology. While there he became interested in photography and since then has devoted himself to work with the camera. For several years he has lived in Chicago and is the manager of a color laboratory, Color Services, Inc., which he started less than a year ago.

His work as a color photographer gives him distinction among the younger generation of American photographers. The ability shown in his color printing is of the highest order. His control of the evanescent and always changing character of light brings to his prints their rare and memorable atmosphere. This is just as present in his work with black and white, proving his gifts for subtlety and discrimination rise from a consistent conception of truths and values. All works admirably for the interpretation of those examples of the small architecture of a not too distant past, surviving amidst the confusion of our great cities, and for which he has such a welcome predilection.