

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60603, U. S. A.

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April 9, 1969

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent photographs by Danny Lyon, one of the most original and influential of young American photographers, will be shown in Gallery 106 at the Art Institute of Chicago May 3 through July 6. In this exhibition of about 50 prints, titled PRISON AND THE FREE WORLD, Lyon reestablishes himself as "the photo-artist of the outcast, the poet of the underdog," as he was once described.

The exhibition, as indicated by the title, offers a contrast in themes. A number of the photographs, some of which were reproduced in the April issue of Esquire magazine, depict life in penal institutions in the United States. Others are chosen from a large project sponsored by New York state, illustrating the destruction of Lower Manhattan. Still others were taken during a stay in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Born in Brooklyn in 1942, 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 and photographing motorcycles. The interest in cycling was no whim. The world of cycling was the main subject of Lyon's first one-man show, at the Art Institute, in 1966. He subsequently authored and produced photographs for a book titled Bikeriders, published in 1968 by Macmillan, and dedicated to Hugh Edwards, the Art Institute's Curator of Photography.

His work has been published in DU (Zurich, Switzerland), Tri-Quarterly (Northwestern University), and The Movement (published in England by Penguin under the title A Matter of Colour). Examples of his work are owned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago. Two books of his photographs of Lower Manhattan and prisons are scheduled for forthcoming publication.

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Lyon is quite specific and articulate about his work. In 1966, at the time of his first exhibition at the Art Institute, Lyon was quoted as saying, "My pictures don't make you judge these people. You can look at them and react to them as you want. If any of the pictures forced a judgment on you, they'd be lousy pictures. The people I photograph are real. What I have to express I put in my photos, and I have nothing to add to them. I live pretty much in the worlds I photograph. To me, human beings are capable of anything and are capable of more things than can ever be told about in theories or books or that sociologists can imagine."

In 1968, Lyon became a member of Magnum Photos, Inc., the agency which claims some of the world's most prominent photographers. He was awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in March of 1969.

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Photographs available after April 15, 1969.