



## ***PRIVATE VIEWS***

### **PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARBARA CRANE**

**Essay by Barbara Hitchcock**

In the early 1980s, photographer **Barbara Crane** embarked on a photographic project shot during Chicago's various summer festivals. Armed with a Super Speed Graphic camera and Polaroid film, Crane waded in close to the revelers and focused on capturing the details of clothing and hairstyles, but most importantly, gesture. The images are tightly cropped and terrifically alive, viscerally bringing us into the crush of people eating, drinking, and enjoying the crowd dynamic—an incredible inventory of private gestures performed in public spaces.

Aperture is pleased to bring together this sensual, sun-drenched, sweat-glistening photographic experience with the publication of *Private Views* (**Aperture, May 2009**). The collective effect of the images in *Private Views* is mesmerizing and intensely compelling, creating a palpable sensuality from image to image—an incredible document, not of a particular event or personalities, but of something less tangible: the public expression of euphoria. *Private Views* is a celebration of the classic 1980s Polaroid snapshot with an experimental flair; Crane's mixture of natural light and flash combined with her use of Polaroid film highlights the primary colors of the fashion of the 1980s, which still feels hip and contemporary today.



**BARBARA CRANE** (born in Chicago, 1928) is a celebrated American photographer known for her extraordinary commitment to experimentation and innovation. The common thread in her work, which ranges from abstract to documentary, is the human form and the urban landscape. Crane studied art history at Mills College, completing her BA at New York University in 1950. She returned to Chicago and enrolled in the Institute of Design's graduate photography program, studying with Aaron Siskind, among others. Her work has been the subject of six retrospective surveys and more than seventy-six one-person exhibitions. Crane is professor emeritus of photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is represented by Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago; Higher Pictures, New York; and Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris.

**BARBARA HITCHCOCK** (essay) is curator and director of the Polaroid Collection in Concord, Maine.

Co-published with Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago.

**Accompanying Exhibitions:** *Barbara Crane: Challenging Vision* is now on view at the Amon Carter Museum, Texas, February 14–May 10, 2009, which will then travel to the Chicago Cultural Center, Illinois in the Fall 2009.

**Related Events:**

Artist's Talk and Book Signing:  
Saturday, May 2, 5:00 pm  
Art Chicago

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**Aperture**—located in New York's Chelsea art district—is a world-renowned non-profit publisher and exhibition space dedicated to promoting photography in all its forms. Aperture was founded in 1952 by photographers Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan, and Minor White; historian Beaumont Newhall; and writer/curator Nancy Newhall, among others. These visionaries created a new quarterly periodical, *Aperture* magazine, to foster both the development and the appreciation of the photographic medium and its practitioners. In the 1960s, Aperture expanded to include the publication of books (over five hundred to date) that comprise one of the most comprehensive and innovative libraries in the history of photography and art. Aperture's programs now include artist lectures and panel discussions, limited-edition photographs, and traveling exhibitions that show at major museums and arts institutions in the U.S. and internationally.

**Contact:** Andrea Smith, Director of Communications, (212) 946-7111, [asmith@aperture.org](mailto:asmith@aperture.org)  
Christina Caputo, Publicist, (212) 946-7123, [ccaputo@aperture.org](mailto:ccaputo@aperture.org)

