Lisette Model
We wish to thank Jim McQuaid, coordinator of the Oral History Project at the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, for assisting the Center in compiling the Model chronology, and Lisette Model for her generous cooperation throughout the production of this issue.

Cover:
PAUL DIAMOND: (Lisette Model) On the Road to Grunhaven, 1974
gelatin silver print, 38.5 x 38.5 cm.
Collection of Lisette Model

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Lisette Model

In the 1940's, Model was visiting San Francisco and lost her light meter. Ansel Adams, then a resident of San Francisco, supplied her with a meter and, in return, received a group of photographs. At the time, Adams felt that she was being too generous but, upon Model's insistence, kept the photographs. In May 1975, they were donated to the Center by Mr. Adams along with an extensive collection of work by other artists.

The photographs reproduced in this issue are selected from the Ansel Adams Archive which contains forty photographs made by Lisette Model. It is our understanding that this is the largest collection of her work housed in a public institution anywhere in the United States.

Lisette Model has contributed to the medium of photography both with her photographs and teaching. Model's students, among them Diane Arbus and Charles Pratt, have referred to her as an inspiring and insightful teacher. Her photographs give us a record of her probing search into the substance of humanity.

The photographs were made during the years ca. 1937–1945 and remain untitled at Ms. Model's request.
Chronology

1906  Born November 10th, Vienna, Elisa Felicie Amelie Seybert. Father, Victor Seybert, was a wealthy physician who was half Austrian and half Italian. He had an avid interest in music and was an accomplished pianist. Mother was French.
Brother, Salvatore, born 1900. Sister, Olga, born 1908.

1918  Attends progressive/experimental Schwarzwald School for a year and a half and meets Arnold Schönberg’s daughter Gertrude. Becomes friends with the Schönberg family. Studies harmony, counterpoint, and composition with Schönberg. Attends numerous rehearsals and performances of the Society of Modern Music.

1921  Father dies.

1922  Mother sells house in Vienna and moves to French Riviera. Lisette travels to Paris to continue study of music and voice with Maria Freund.

1932  Gives up study of music and voice altogether. Begins painting.

1936  Marries Russian painter, Evsa Model.

1937  Advised to take up a profession. Begins photographing; borrows sister’s Rolleiflex. Later purchases Leica and Rolleiflex, working mostly with the latter. Makes Riviera (Promenade des Anglais) and Paris photographs.

1938  Makes photographs of Fascist Italy (negatives lost in move to USA). October, arrives in New York for a three-week visit with Evsa’s sister; travels on the Ille de France. Immediate love for the United States and New York City. Never returns to Europe to live; has belongings packed up and sent to her in New York. Lives on personal income for several years. It is approximately thirteen months before she begins to photograph in New York City.


1940–41  Embarks on photographic series of feet and window reflections.

1941  Begins photographic series on Coney Island: "How Coney Island Got That Way," photographs by Model from her ongoing series, published in HARPER’S MAGAZINE (July) May 17–June 6, one-woman exhibition of French photographs at the Photo League. Exhibition is reviewed by Elizabeth McCausland of Springfield REPUBLIC; same reviews later appear in PHOTO NOTES.

1942  Makes series of photographs of schools for delinquent children for LOOK Magazine which are never published.

1943  Joins staff of HARPER’S BAZAAR (position held until 1955) "Hot Horn Gabriel" (Harry James), six photographs published in HARPER’S BAZAAR (August) "Dancing Feet," four photographs for women’s footwear, published in HARPER’S BAZAAR (December) Included in two group exhibitions at MOMA: "Action Photography" "Portraits"

Three group exhibitions at MOMA:
"Art in Progress"
"New Workers" (No. 1) with Adrian Siegel, Walter Rosenblum, Morris Engle, Dorothy Norman, and John Candelario. Model's section entitled "Lisette Model: Two Nightclubs," thirty photographs
"Fifty Photographs from MOMA" (shown at Photographic Society of America in Chicago)

1945  "Gallagher's People," series of photographs published in U.S. CAMERA (April)

1946  Group exhibition at MOMA: "Photographs from the Museum Collection."

1947  Lectures at summer school of Fine Arts, San Francisco Art Institute.

1948  Included in three group exhibitions at MOMA:
"In and Out of Focus: A Survey of Today's Photography"
"Fifty Photographs by Fifty Photographers"
"Four Photographers"

1949  Included in traveling exhibition arranged by MOMA: "Leading Photographers: Lisette Model," fifteen photographs.


1951  Begins teaching at the New School for Social Research in New York. (Continues to present except for the years 1954-58)

Two group exhibitions at MOMA:
"Twelve Photographers"
"Christmas Photographs"

1953  Included in traveling exhibition to Japan, organized by MOMA: "Contemporary American Photography."

Visits Europe; photographs in Italy and France.

1954  Visits Caracas, Venezuela.

1955  Group exhibition at MOMA: "Family of Man."

1957  Group exhibition at MOMA: "Seventy Photographers Look at New York."

1958  Group exhibition at MOMA: "Photographs from the Museum Collection."


1962  Group exhibition at MOMA: "A Bid for Space" No. 3.

1963  Photograph reproduced in MOMA calendar.

1965  Receives Guggenheim Fellowship.

Among ten photographers chosen to nominate a younger photographer for the exhibition "10/10" at Milwaukee School of Fine Arts, University of Wisconsin. Model sponsored Diane Arbus.


1974  Included in "American Masters" at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (May)

1976  Exhibition at Sander Gallery, Washington, D.C. (September-October)
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.4 x 26.8 cm.
76:017:014
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.6 x 27.6 cm.
76:017:040
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.0 x 27.0
76:017:001
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.3 x 27.0 cm.
76:017:018
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.6 x 26.9 cm.
76:017:022
LISSETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.4 x 27.0 cm.
76:017:030
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.4 x 26.6 cm.
76:017:024
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.5 x 27.0 cm.
76:017:038
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.5 x 27.0
76:017:025
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.5 x 28.9
76.017:010
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 34.6 x 27.5 cm.
76.017:004
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 26.8 x 34.2
76:017:003
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.)
gelatin silver print, 27.0 x 34.5 cm.
76:017:036
LISETTE MODEL: (untitled, n.d.).
gelatin silver print, 26.5 x 34.5 cm.
76.017.005
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