INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Image caption: Han Youngsoo, *Seoul, Korea*, 1956-63. © Han Youngsoo Foundation

MEDIA RELEASE

HAN YOUNGSOO
PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEOUL 1956–63

ON VIEW
February 24–June 9, 2017

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:
1–5 PM

Tuesday and Thursday:
By appointment only

FOR APPOINTMENTS
Contact: managallery@icp.org

LOCATION
ICP at Mana
888 Newark Avenue, 6th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306

NEW YORK, NY AND JERSEY CITY, NJ (FEBRUARY 8, 2017) — From February 24 to June 9, 2017, the International Center of Photography (ICP) will present the exhibition *Han Youngsoo: Photographs of Seoul 1956–63* in the ICP gallery at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City. The exhibition, organized by ICP and the Waterfall Mansion & Gallery, will be the first substantial U.S. showing of the work of Korean photographer Han Youngsoo (1933–1999), whose remarkable images bring to life the social and economic rebirth of Seoul in the years following the Korean War. The thirty-eight prints on view have been selected by ICP Adjunct Curator Christopher Phillips and Waterfall Mansion & Gallery Adjunct Curator Dooeun Choi. A biographical video, *Han Youngsoo: His Modern Times in Seoul*, produced by the Han Youngsoo Foundation, will be on view in the gallery throughout the course of the exhibition.

Han Youngsoo was little known outside of Korea during his lifetime. Seen from today's vantage point, his photographs come as a surprise. With their impeccable composition, flawless timing, and scrupulous attention to social detail, they suggest the work of a long-lost Korean cousin of such early Magnum photographers as Henri Cartier-Bresson, David Seymour (Chim), and Marc Riboud. After taking part in bitter frontline fighting as a young South Korean soldier during the Korean War (1950–53), Han returned to Seoul at the war's end and found a devastated city. Choosing photography as a profession, he witnessed a period of profound transformation in Seoul that saw the rapid creation of a modern city and urban society. His photographs tell this story by offering a fascinating window onto the everyday lives of the city's ordinary men, women, and children. Although he did not overlook the surviving customs and architecture of old Seoul—there are remarkable views of terraced hills crowded with traditional tile-roofed dwellings—Han was more interested in exploring the modern urban culture that was rapidly taking shape. His street portraits are filled with recognizable metropolitan types: an anxious young couple tending to their sidewalk used-book stall; a self-satisfied young woman strolling in a sleek fur

1114 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
212.857.0045
icp.org
@ICP
@ICPhotog

MORE

coat on what appears to be a warm fall day. Han paid special attention to the changing status of Korean women, who were then finding new roles as entrepreneurs or consumers, as suggested in views of narrow streets lined with well-stocked fashion boutiques. Although after 1966 Han turned his attention to running a successful studio specializing in advertising and fashion photography, his photographs of Seoul in the postwar decade remain one of the richest and most humanly sympathetic visual records of those years.

Han Youngsoo: Photographs of Seoul 1956–63 has been organized by ICP and Waterfall Mansion & Gallery, New York City, with the collaboration of the Han Youngsoo Foundation, Seoul.

ABOUT HAN YOUNGSOO

Born to a well-to-do family in Gaesung, Korea, in 1933, Han Youngsoo took drawing and painting lessons as a young man and pursued photography as a hobby. Following service in the Korean military during the Korean War, he started his photographic career as a member of Shinsunwhue (New Line Group), an association of socially concerned realist photographers. With the advent of economic prosperity in 1960s Korea, he established Han's Photo Studio in 1966; it became a celebrated pioneer of Korean advertising photography and fashion photography. Han played an active role in a number of Korean photography associations and cultural organizations. In 1987 he published a wide selection of his historic photographs of postwar Seoul in a large-format book, *Korean Lives After the War, 1956–1960*. Following his death in 1999, his daughter Han Sunjung established the Han Youngsoo Foundation to preserve his negatives and archive and to promote recognition of his accomplishments. Han Youngsoo's works have received growing international attention in recent years, and were featured at the Rencontres d'Arles photo festival in 2014. Two volumes of his photographs have been published by Hansgraphic: *Seoul: Modern Times* (2014) and *Once Upon a Time* (2015).

ABOUT WATERFALL MANSION & GALLERY

Waterfall Mansion & Gallery is a contemporary art gallery and a social engagement platform on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Sculpted from a carriage house with a deep artistic heritage, it was developed by Kate Shin and designed by world-renowned architect Toshiko Mori. Waterfall Gallery's mission is to create a sustainable platform for international, upcoming contemporary artists from its unique nexus of cultural influencers in diplomacy, not-for-profit foundations, and luxury and finance industries, through our guiding principles of 3 C's (Create, Curate, and Connect). Visit www.waterfall-gallery.com for more information.

ABOUT ICP

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Founded by Cornell Capa in 1974 to preserve the legacy of "concerned photography"—in which the reproduced image is both a catalyst and record of social change—ICP's mission endures even as the medium and practices of socially engaged imagemaking have changed. Through our new museum, located at 250 Bowery, as well as our exhibitions, school, public programs, and community outreach, we offer an open forum for dialogue about the role images play in our culture. Since our founding, we have presented more than 700 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes, providing instruction at every level. ICP brings together photographers and artists, students, and scholars to create and interpret the world of the image, exploring photography and visual culture as mediums of empowerment and as catalysts for wide-reaching social change.

Located at 888 Newark Avenue in Jersey City, NJ, ICP at Mana is a 15,000-square-foot space that houses a gallery, lab, research area, and the ICP Collections. Access to the ICP Collections is by appointment only. Please contact collections@icp.org or go to www.icp.org to learn more.

CONTACT

Meryl Cooper, 917.974.0022, meryl@theCOOPERationinc.com

1114 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
212.857.0045
icp.org
@ICP
@ICPhotog