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2023

Guide to the Milton Rogovin Mini Exhibit Photograph Collection

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The Milton Rogovin Mini Exhibit Photographic Images Collection

EXTENT

1 box, .19 cubic feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

The collection consists of two mini exhibits curated by Milton Rogovin for display in libraries and other cultural organizations.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Organized by Heidi Marshall in 2023.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Milton Rogovin was born December 30, 1909 in New York City, New York and graduated from Columbia University in 1931 with a degree in optometry. He moved to Buffalo, New York in 1938, established his optometric practice in 1939, and married Anne Snetsky in 1942. This same year, he purchased his first camera and served in the United States Army, stationed in England, where he worked as an optometrist until 1945. By 1947, the Rogovins had three children, Ellen, Paula, and Mark. He held a deep concern for the rights of workers and laborers, and in 1957 was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee who investigated his ties to the Communist Party. This action impacted his business and his family, so he focused on photography, creating images that communicated a just and equal society, and earned a Master of Arts in American Society degree from the University of Buffalo in 1972. Beginning in 1962, he and his wife began traveling for his photographic projects, beginning in Appalachia, with his "Family of Miners" series and in 1972, he began his Buffalo Lower West Side triptych and quartet series titled "Focus on Community". He died at age 101 in January 2011.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The two mini exhibits in this collection were designed for display in libraries and other cultural organizations. The "Family of Miners" mini exhibit features select images from ten countries, encased in mylar. The "Focus on Community" mini exhibit highlights five families in Buffalo, New York with an image taken each decade from the 1970s to 2002, forming a familial story through a small set of images. Present are one triptych and four quartets chronicling changes in these families over nearly 40 years; all are printed on heavy paper.

ARRANGEMENT

"Family of Miners" is arranged alphabetically by country name

"Focus on Community" is arranged from its original order by family captured over time.

RELATED MATERIALS

Internal

[The Archie Lieberman Collection](#)

External

[Milton Rogovin Photograph Collection](#), Library of Congress
[Recorded interviews with Milton Rogovin](#), SUNY, Buffalo State
[Milton Rogovin Collection](#), University of Arizona

Website: <https://www.miltonrogovin.com/>

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Donated by Mark Rogovin in 2006, who is the son of Milton Rogovin.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Photography, portraits, labor, exhibits, exhibition

ACCESS STATEMENT

The collection is open and available for research use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

United States copyright laws apply to the materials in this collection.

PREFERRED CITATION

The Milton Rogovin Mini Exhibit Photographic Images Collection, Archives & Special Collections Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

The Milton Rogovin Mini Exhibit Photographic Images Collection Inventory

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	ITEMS	DATE(S)
1	1	Family of Miners: Appalachia	6	1976-1987
1	2	Family of Miners: Czechoslovakia	2	1976-1987
1	3	Family of Miners: China	2	1976-1987
1	4	Family of Miners: Cuba	3	1976-1987
1	5	Family of Miners: France & Germany	2	1976-1987
1	6	Family of Miners: Mexico	2	1976-1987
1	7	Family of Miners: Scotland	2	1976-1987
1	8	Family of Miners: Spain	2	1976-1987
1	9	Family of Miners: Zimbabwe	3	1976-1987
1	10	Focus on Community: Title Page	1	2006
1	11	Focus on Community: Quartet 1	4	1973,1985,1992,2002
1	12	Focus on Community: Quartet 2	4	1973,1985,1992,2002
1	13	Focus on Community: Quartet 3	4	1974,1985,1992,2002
1	14	Focus on Community: Quartet 4	4	1974,1985,1992,2002
1	15	Focus on Community: Triptych 1	3	1973,1985,1992