



For immediate release:

Diane Arbus 1971–1956

31 October–28 December 2013



There are and have been and will be an infinite number of things on earth. Individuals all different, all wanting different things, all knowing different things, all loving different things, all looking different. Everything that has been on earth has been different from any other thing. That is what I love: the differentness, the uniqueness of all things and the importance of life... I see something that seems wonderful; I see the divineness in ordinary things.

– November 28, 1939, Diane Arbus's paper on Plato, senior English seminar, Fieldston School

FRAENKEL GALLERY is pleased to announce the exhibition *Diane Arbus 1971–1956*, to be presented October 31–December 28, 2013.

Given the magnitude of the impact her photographs left in their wake, Diane Arbus's career was brief—a mere fifteen years. Yet from the moment in 1956 when at the age of 33 she started numbering her negatives, beginning with #1, Arbus's preoccupations appear to have been clear. Even her earliest photographs evidence an acute interest in singular people, the private places they inhabit, and the mysteries that bring human beings together or keep them apart. As Arbus's technique evolved over the next decade, her negatives becoming more detailed and her prints becoming larger, her central concerns remained consistent, revealing an uncanny clarity about the subject matter that compelled her and that was eventually to define her unprecedented achievement.

Diane Arbus 1971–1956 examines the artist's evolution through one picture per year, from the perspective of a rear-view mirror. Tracing five threads of interest with approximately sixty photographs, the exhibition starts with images made shortly before her death in 1971 and progresses, in reverse order, toward their beginnings. By interweaving well-known images with many less familiar ones (among them *Woman in a fur stole, N.Y.C. 1971*; *An empty room, N.Y.C. 1968*; *Masked man in white, N.Y.C. 1967*; and *Person Unknown, City Morgue, N.Y.C. 1960*), *Diane Arbus 1971–1956* offers an unconventional perspective on the artist's oeuvre, and sheds light on the enigmatic process by which one work informs another.

Diane Arbus Revelations, a major retrospective (and publication) organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2003, travelled to seven institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. *Diane Arbus: A Chronology* was published by Aperture in 2011, containing many of her writings.