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TORONTO, July 6, 2022

The Cardinal Gallery presents,

**DAVID HUNSBERGER
"SATURDAY SOCIAL"
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

**SON OF A PREACHER MAN. AN INTIMATE GLIMPSE INTO ONTARIO'S MENNONITE AND
AMISH COMMUNITIES FROM THE 1950's and 60's.**

VIEWING ROOM

"He gradually gained acceptance and was able to photograph the Old Order Mennonite Community, partly because of his name and his background, but also partly because of his gentle attitude," Laureen Harder-Gissing, Archivist at Conrad Grebel University College



Exhibition Dates: Thursday, July 7-Sunday, August 28, 2022

Reception: Saturday, July 9, 2022 from 2:00-6:00pm

SIGN UP FOR RECEPTION

Posthumous exhibition. David Hunsberger's son Fred in attendance.

Address: The Cardinal Gallery 1231 Davenport Road, Toronto

David L. Hunsberger 1928-2005, was the son of Noah and Minnie Hunsberger. Noah was a rural mission worker and a minister at Erb St. Mennonite Church. The family lived on a farm north of Baden, Ontario for a few years during which time David was baptized at Shantz Mennonite Church. When David was 14, the family moved to St. Jacobs, Ontario where he joined the St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. David lived in St. Jacobs for 55 years.

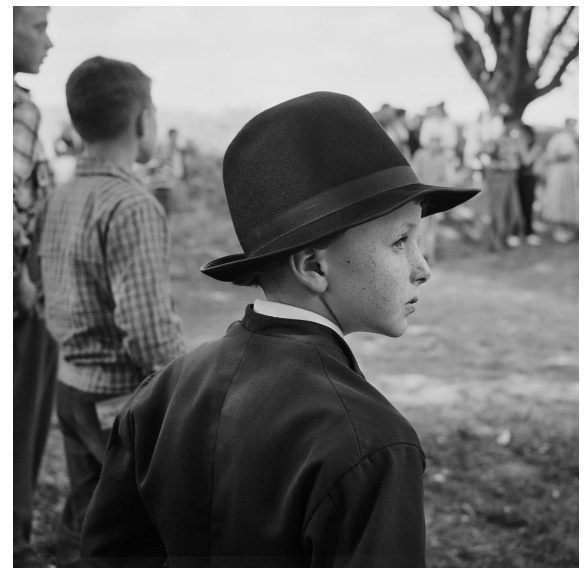
David, a professional photographer, documented the Ontario Mennonite community of which he was both a part, and apart from. Most compelling is his work from 1953-1963 as it offers a portal to a unique community during a time of transition and transformation. His photographs of barn raisings, revival meetings and market days capture a collective experience delineated and expanded by portraits of individuals, all set against the landscape to which they belong. The simplicity of the resulting images is belied by the sophistication of his technique and compositions. Born in 1928, David L. Hunsberger took thousands of photographs over the course of his career as a commercial photographer. His choice of vocation was at odds with the beliefs of his community and their adherence to the old testament's prohibition against using or creating 'graven images' and any practice that might spark or express vanity. That he was able to take these photographs, not from the outside looking in, but from within the community, is remarkable. This collection of his work is drawn from the earlier years, when, without the financial obligations of supporting a family he was able to explore his artistry and curate his curiosity. This collection offers much more than a documentation of a particular people, place and time. In these days of debate about difference and diversity it has something important to tell us about "othering" – about those who could look just like "us" but choose to set themselves apart – and how this choice can both nurture and constrain both the observer and the observed.

The SATURDAY SOCIAL exhibition features limited edition silver gelatin archival prints of Hunsberger's photography of the Mennonite and Amish communities from the 50's and 60's in the Waterloo, ON region. His poignant photos include barn raisings, Evangelist Revival convoys, portraits of Amish and Mennonite children and provide a unique lens on Waterloo County history and life. The trust and understanding he developed between himself and Old Order Mennonites allowed him to capture the essence of that community.



Curated by gallery owners Chelsea Hulme-Wilyman and Cory Wilyman with the help of David's son Fred Hunsberger.

David L. Hunsberger's work speaks not in emphatic and dogmatic tones but in a voice so thoughtful, measured and compelling we cannot but listen.





The Cardinal Gallery

The Cardinal Gallery is a creative exhibition space with a focus on showing fine art photography as well as providing an inviting event venue for the arts community.

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