

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## A FORMER NUN'S PHOTOGRAPHY ARCHIVE CULMINATES IN ONE FINE DAY.

The Cardinal Gallery Presents:  
JOAN LATCHFORD: ONE FINE DAY

May 11-June 25, 2023.

Opening reception : Friday, May 12 from 6-9pm

Ex-nun Joan Latchford's work traverses different cultures and situations, encapsulating a shared humanity of simple moments. Working the streets intuitively, Latchford's candid photography captures seemingly insignificant



points in time but her work forever freezes these fleeting memories and has turned them into something of a splendour.



The small, boutique, photo-centric Cardinal Gallery opened on March 7, 2020, and promptly closed on March 15, 2020, due to Covid-19. With all of the ups and downs of the pandemic they managed to persevere and present the JOAN LATCHFORD: LOVE ISN'T LIMITED exhibition in their first year featuring Latchford's poignant photography of Toronto life in the sixties and seventies. The incredibly positive response was overwhelming. Joan passed away in 2017 but The Estate of Joan Latchford has entrusted gallery owners and curators Cory Wilyman and Chelsea Hulme-Wilyman with tens of thousands of Joan's preserved negatives. Upon going through the negatives one by one they soon realized that they had stumbled upon something incredibly special. Joan Latchford the woman was incredibly special too it seems. She was a nun, a poet, a teacher, draft dodger supporter (she let them sleep on her living room floor like sardines), a photo documentary journalist and a mother of eight, six of her children adopted.



As a followup to the highly acclaimed “JOAN LATCHFORD: LOVE ISN’T LIMITED” exhibition, The Cardinal Gallery is proud to present “ JOAN LATCHFORD: ONE FINE DAY” as part of The 2023 Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

This exhibition encourages the viewer to take a closer look, to slow down, relish in the moment that may seem mundane or ordinary, to harken back to a simple memory of their own that conjures up a similar sentiment. The viewer is invited to enjoy her individual subject's unique

experiences that make any day or moment “ fine” in different ways to different people.





Through her lens the viewer can almost feel an uncanny tenderness. She photographed her subjects as they lived their lives, in their homes, on the street, in the park. Her camera aimed at little pockets of life.

The result is a compelling and captivating documentation of her work.



Someone once said to me “Joan, you will never be a great photographer until you put photography first.” As a mother of a growing family that ended up at eight children, I replied testily that I considered it more of a challenge to be a great photographer putting it second.  
-Joan Latchford

#### JOAN LATCHFORD BIOGRAPHY:

Starting in the 1960s Joan Latchford was commissioned by the NFB Stills Division to capture images exploring Toronto’s diaspora under the assignment headings: “Children of Canada” and “Middle Class Life”. Latchford, who was tired of seeing Canada’s minority communities documented as “poor, angry confrontational... reinforcing stereotypes” set out to photograph people living their everyday lives at home and on the streets.

Many of Latchford’s photographs from this era focus on the lesser seen lives of those who had recently encountered great geographical transition: Hungarian refugees unable to find commensurate work because of language barriers, American draft resisters seeking physical refuge and intellectual escape but prohibited from working until they had landed immigrant status and, most notably, her intrigue with Toronto’s booming Caribbean communities, newly immigrated to Canada through the era’s enhanced multiculturalism policies. Joan Latchford, who had always been drawn to those experiencing transience and change, and the unique energies of

shared and competing existence, captured the city's spontaneity, growth and diversity in a way that had rarely been documented in Canada.

Born in Canada but educated in Britain, Latchford initially trained as a Public-School teacher in England. In 1958 she taught "emotionally disturbed" boys in Brixton. Her deep Catholic faith led her to enter the convent there where she became a nun for 7 years. She eventually realized that a different life was calling her and moved to Toronto. She started a drop-in every Tuesday evening for immigrants new to Canada to meet, drink coffee and engage in other activities with English-speaking people. It was one fateful Tuesday evening in her tiny apartment with 75 people in attendance that she met her future husband Frank. He proposed to her three weeks later and they built a family of eight children together, 6 adopted, 2 "home grown". Motherhood didn't deter her ambition to engage with community and the Latchford home was open to any and all who needed safe haven. Through her photographs we see not only the depth of an era but also the interests and curiosities of a photographer who was called by all that urban life had to offer.

Joan passed away in 2017 but her legacy lives on through her poignant images.

PRESS LINKS:

<https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/visualarts/2020/11/15/an-ex-nuns-images-are-like-a-love-letter-to-toronto-a-cry-of-hope-from-the-past-that-will-resonate-in-a-racially-charged-moment.html>

<https://torontolife.com/city/joan-latchford-cardinal-gallery-photos-toronto-in-the-1960s-and-70s/>



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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