





Ed van der Elsken (1925-1990) was a unique figure in Dutch photography. In an international perspective, he was at the top of his genre, street photography. His photography bears an affinity with the 'decisive moments' of Henri Cartier-Bresson, with William Klein's probing shots and with the suggestiveness of Robert Frank. The exhibition examines the relationship between his photographs and his films, which are less known. For both his photographs and films Van der Elsken found the majority of his subjects in the working class neighbourhoods of large cosmopolitan cities: Paris, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, Tokyo. In contrast to what he himself often claimed, he was not a photographer of the fringes. He was in search of a form of beauty which could best be described as plastic, earthy and sometimes undisguisedly erotic. In fact he was fascinated by people who exuded pride, vitality and a certain measure of exuberance. Van der Elsken photographed his people in situations which often have a theatrical dimension, and to which he would put his own director's hand when need be. Along with explicitly theatrical, extroverted images, one also finds countless quiet and heart-rending scenes throughout his work, which bear witness to a poetic disposition and to a feeling of sympathy and solidarity with people.

Ed van der Elsken - LONG LIVE ME!

PUBLICATION: PARADOX, € 13,50 / EXHIBITION CONSISTS OF: 120 framed photographs (VARYING FROM 43 X 60 CM TO 60 X 85 CM), slides and 17 film fragments (ON DVD, VARIOUS LENGTHS, TOTALLING AT 57 MIN.) / SIZE: 60-70 running meters / EXHIBITION FEE: € 7000



PARADOX creates projects in photography and media related arts on it's own initiative or in co-production with other organisations. The interaction between social, economic and technological change is central to most thematic and monographic projects developed. PARADOX' activities include travelling exhibitions, traditional and interactive publishing and organising workshops and symposiums. For further info: www.paradox.nl

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