

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 3, 2018

**THE DAVIS MUSEUM PRESENTS COLD WAR-ERA SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY  
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM MILTON AND ANNE ROGOVIN**



WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College presents *Bread and Roses: The Social Documentary of Milton and Anne Rogovin*, an exhibition of 37 black-and-white photographs that portray underserved communities and laborers from around the world. Milton Rogovin, together with his wife Anne, expanded the potential of social documentary photography in the United States to reach and affect audiences, as well as the subjects in their pictures. The exhibition, on view in the Robert and Claire Freedman Lober Viewing Alcove, runs from February 7 through June 19, 2019.

“Milton Rogovin created his own version of the social documentary genre, particularly with regard to his sitters, who had a deep appreciation for his work. Many families recall how Milton and Anne would spend time getting to know them and return to re-photograph them years later,” says Carrie Cushman, Linda Wyatt Gruber ’66 Curatorial Fellow in Photography and curator of the exhibition. “The purpose of social documentary photography is to affect viewers by generating empathy that can lead to social change. The Rogovins used the genre to fight for social equity, but the images also insist on the dignity of their subjects.”

In the midst of the Cold War-era crackdown on the Communist Party and other “Un-American” activities, the Buffalo, New York-based optometrist, social activist, and self-taught photographer Milton Rogovin (1909-2011) was labeled the “Top Red in Buffalo.” In 1958, after being ostracized and silenced by his local community, Rogovin turned to photography to continue his cause for a more just and equal society, a commitment echoed by the political slogan, “Bread and Roses.” Rogovin would photograph people at their place of work in mines and factories, and later at home with their families. This juxtaposition conveys a message that the laborers of the world should not be defined by what they do for work; they are people just like anyone else.

Anne Rogovin was pivotal to the photographic series, as she worked in close liaison with the sitters and kept track of their whereabouts. It was Anne's idea to revisit people that Milton had photographed in Buffalo's Lower West Side years after the first pictures were taken. Moreover, Anne supported their family of five on a teaching salary when Milton closed his optometry practice to pursue photography full time in the 1970s.

The exhibition includes 37 photographs: 33 by Rogovin and work from four other photographers known for their social documentary: Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange, Paul Strand, and Margaret Bourke-White. There are several photographs taken on the Lower West Side of Buffalo, New York, as well as many from the Rogovins' international travels to Chile and mining communities in Zimbabwe, Scotland, Cuba, and Mexico.

The works in the exhibition were drawn from a gift of 260 photographs donated by Wellesley College alumna Denise Jarvinen '83 and her husband Pierre Cremieux in 2016. Additional information about Milton and Anne Rogovin can be found at: <http://www.miltonrogovin.com/>

***Bread and Roses*** is generously supported by The Mary Tebbetts Wolfe '54 Davis Museum Program Fund.

## **EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING**

### **Spring Opening Celebration**

Thursday, February 7

6:30 - 9 p.m., Davis Lobby

*Opening Reception*

6:45 p.m., Davis Lobby and Galleries

*Welcome Remarks*

The Davis Museum hosts an opening for the Spring 2019 exhibitions—including six special installations that bring spectacular energy and creative artistic innovation to the Wellesley College campus. Visitors can see the major exhibition, *Art\_Latin\_America: Against the Survey*, which takes a fresh look at a hotspot of Davis collecting, along with *Disappearances: Three Video Artists from Latin America*; *Yinka Shonibare MBE: Guns Drawn*; *Tabitha Soren: Surface Tension*; *Bread and Roses: The Social Documentary of Milton and Anne Rogovin*; the ongoing presentation of *Daniela Rivera: Fragmentos para una historia del olvido/Fragments for a history of displacement*; and rotations that renew the presentations in its Permanent Collections Galleries.

**Curatorial Gallery Talk: Carrie Cushman: *Bread and Roses: The Social Documentary of Milton and Anne Rogovin***

Tuesday, February 12

4 p.m.

Carrie Cushman, Linda Wyatt Gruber '66 Curatorial Fellow in Photography, will discuss how Milton and Anne Rogovin shifted the terms of social documentary photography.

**ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM**

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical, and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.



Generous Support for the Davis Museum is provided by Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS**

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

**Image credit:**

Milton Rogovin, *Buffalo, New York*, from the series *Lower West Side*, 1974.

Gelatin silver print. Gift of Denise Jarvinen (Class of 1983) and Pierre Cremieux in memory of Karl E. "Chip" Case, Professor Emeritus of Economics.

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*High-resolution images and interviews available upon request.*