



Catherine DeLattre
From the series, *Shoppers, Broadway Upper West Side, NYC, 1979-80*

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Shoppers, Broadway Upper West Side, NYC, 1979-80

opening Wednesday, September 6, 2023

6:00-8:00pm

on view until November 4, 2023

OSMOS Address, 50 E 1st St, New York, NY

Catherine DeLattre grew up in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, a small town near the heavily industrial area of Pittsburgh. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, she studied archaeology at Kent State where a course in basic photography was a requirement for recording in archaeological digs. That led her to the Art Photography program at Purdue where the focus was on black-and-white, but where DeLattre became more interested in color under the influence of her teacher Vern Cheek, and the then contemporary color work of photographers such as William Eggleston, Joe Maloney, Joel Meyerowitz, Jan Groover, Eve Sonneman and Joel Sternfeld. After a series of teaching gigs that took her from Rockport, Maine to Poughkeepsie, by 1979 DeLattre had saved enough money to move to New York City where she found a \$200/month sublet on the Upper West Side and a part time job teaching darkroom at ICP.

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The colorful, eccentric, mostly elderly, women that shopped and lived in that neighborhood were her first impression of New York City. In DeLattre's own words, "they looked so put together with makeup, outfits, and hairdos but at the same time so vulnerable. I related to that. I loved how they dressed up to go to the bank and the grocery store and run every day errands." Almost every day from 1979 through 1980, she shot 120 Kodak color negative film with a TLR Mamiya which allowed her to remain anonymous when capturing street photographs of passersby. "It was an opportunity to photograph a passing generation. ... Color was integral to my images in mood and description of the people and time. Color is still my main focus today, although in a more formal way than my street photos of the 1970s and 1980s."

This is the first exhibition of these historic photographs. OSMOS is pleased to announce its representation of Catherine DeLattre, an artist whose photographic career has spanned multiple decades in multiple industries but has remained lesser known in the art world.