

BILL RAUHAUSER *Street Photographer - The genius among us*

Bill Rauhauser, born in Detroit in 1918, received a bachelor degree in Architectural Engineering in 1943 from the University of Detroit. He spent 18 years in the engineering field before a career change into the field of education. Over the next 30 years, Bill Taught photography at the College for Creative Studies, with 1 year as guest lecturer at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and 4 years at Wayne State University. He was appointed Professor Emeritus by CCS and is currently serving as Artist Advisor for the Board of Directors of the Department of Prints, Drawings and Photographs of the Detroit Institute of Arts. He is listed in the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

The many exhibitions of his work include *The Family of Man* show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Bill has made Detroit his main subject, walking its streets and alleys with his camera from the 1940's through the present. Many of his photographs are in the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts as well as in numerous public and private collections. Publications of his photographs include: *Bill Rauhauser-20th Century Photography in Detroit* (2010); *Beauty on the Streets of Detroit* (2008); *Detroit Auto Show Images of the 1970's* (2007); *Bob-Lo Revisited* (2003); *Detroit Revisited* (2007); *Bill Rauhauser*, Published by the Kresge Foundation (2014)

In 1951 Edward Steichen came to Detroit to speak at the DIA to promote the future show he was preparing, *The Family of Man*. He invited local photographers to submit work. One of Bill's works, *Three on a Bench* was selected to be part of that show (1955) which was shown in New York, Canada, and Japan with worldwide press. Bill was one of 273 international photographers celebrated in what would become one of the most viewed exhibitions in history.

Bill sought truth in reality through the camera. He explained, "For me, photography deals most successfully with outer reality, the world of sight and touch". He pursued authenticity as the highest goal over interpretation. He never staged or manipulated photos because he claimed, "Staged events destroy the credibility which is the hallmark of Street Photography". He even avoided color photography because he insisted that color could distract or influence the viewer, interfering with the clarity of the subject.

In 2014, Bill Rauhauser was awarded the Kresge Foundation's prestigious Eminent Artist Award and its \$50,000.00 prize. "Over the years I've just walked around Detroit keeping an eye open waiting for something to happen, something significant," he said, "and I love every minute of it."

Bill Rauhauser is represented locally and nationally by the Hill Gallery.