

ARMANI / SILOS

Giorgio Armani announces a new exhibition to be held at the Armani/Silos
THE BEATS and THE VANITIES *Larry Fink*



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Milan, 22nd March 2017 – Giorgio Armani is pleased to announce a new exhibition of photographs that will be displayed at the Armani/Silos: *The Beats and The Vanities*, Larry Fink.

Following an opening cocktail on Tuesday, 28TH MARCH, the exhibition will open to the public the following day, Wednesday, 29TH MARCH.

Comprising 125 original black and white photographs – 54 from Fink's book *The Beats*, and 71 from his book *The Vanities* – the exhibition will be mounted on the ground floor of the Armani/Silos. Although both sets of pictures have appeared in international exhibitions and at international photography festivals, they have never before been shown together, making *The Beats and The Vanities* at Armani/Silos a unique opportunity to gain a special insight into this photographer's idiosyncratic vision.

Giorgio Armani says: 'I am really pleased to be able to bring Larry Fink's work to Milan. I find his ability to capture form and line in such a fluid way something I can really relate to as a designer. Fink is a jazz fan, and you can almost view these images in terms of musical composition – people in flow, surprising us, possessing an unselfconscious sensuality. There is much that a fashion designer recognises here.'

Larry Fink says: 'I am really pleased that Giorgio Armani has decided to exhibit *The Beats* and *The Vanities* together. The pictures have more in common than might at first be obvious: from two different very, very opposing levels of egotism, *The Beats* and *The Vanities* live within the same valley. Each set of participants fashions themselves to be on the top of the mountain of contribution. It is great

that Armani has recognised and understood this and it is the first time both collections of images will hang in the same space. I understand this is also the first time that the Armani/Silos has presented a one-man photography exhibition, and that is indeed an honour. Of course, the images were made forty-five years from each other. The Beats were photographed when I was a young romantic, The Vanities when I was – not hardened – but a humanist ironist. Therein, the bodies of work have different aesthetics and moral calculations for all that come to see.'

Larry Fink was born in Brooklyn and grew up in a progressive and politically active family. He cut his teeth as a photographer as part of the late beat generation, when he hooked up with a group of beats when aged 17. Living in the basement of the Sullivan Street Playhouse, next door to the famous Village Gate jazz club, the soundtrack to his life was provided by live sessions by the likes of John Coltrane, Art Blakey and Charles Mingus.

Part of the beat movement himself, attending protests against the Vietnam War and marching on student campuses, Larry was nevertheless always an observer, documenting the times through his medium-format camera. His pictures from then are a wonderful time capsule, and in following his friends' unconventional lifestyle, including a madcap hitchhiking trip from New York to Mexico, he captures perfectly the sense of romance and rebellion that characterised the underground jazz-fuelled youth movement of the time.

The type of empathy his beat photography displays would later make him, perhaps counter-intuitively, the perfect photographer to capture the nuanced circus that is the Hollywood party. A regular editorial contributor to *The New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair*, it was the latter publication that recognised that Larry would bring them something different if let loose among the guests of its glitzy social gatherings. Fink's visual record of the famous and their surrounding courtiers is not concerned with who's who, just what's happening. 'I really do embrace – or try to embrace – the souls of all people, regardless of their conditions,' says Fink.

Today, at 76, Larry Fink is rightly recognised as an important talent, and the one-man show at the Armani/Silos follows many others he has had at places like New York's Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum of Modern Art. In Europe, he has also had one-man shows at the Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne, Switzerland, and the Musée de la Photographie in Charleroi, Belgium. The recipient of many awards and two John Simon Guggenheim Fellowships and two National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Photography Fellowships, Fink has also been teaching for over fifty years and holds professorial positions at Yale University, Cooper Union and Bard College, where he is now a honorary professor.

The Beats and The Vanities, Photographs by Larry Fink will be on show at the Armani/Silos until the end of July 2017.