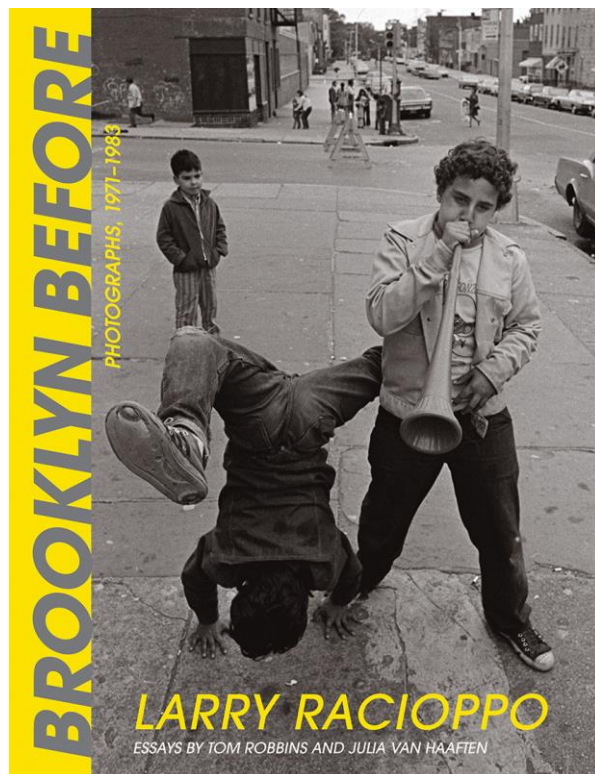


**BROOKLYN BEFORE**  
Photographs, 1971–1983 by **Larry Racioppo**  
September 29 to October 27, 2018

Artist's Reception and book signing  
SATURDAY, September 29, 2018,  
3:00 - 5:00 pm



Cornell University Press, September 2018

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3:00 - 5:00 pm

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Gallery hours: 1:00 - 5:00 pm  
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
Call 718.833.9100 for events and schedule updates.

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TABLA RASA GALLERY  
224 48 Street  
(between 2nd & 3rd Avenues)  
Brooklyn, NY 11220  
718. 833-9100  
[info@TablaRasaGallery.com](mailto:info@TablaRasaGallery.com)  
<http://www.tablarasagallery.com/>

FREE

## About

### **BROOKLYN BEFORE** Selected Photographs, 1971–1983 by **Larry Racioppo**

Tabla Rasa Gallery is delighted to present **BROOKLYN BEFORE**, an exhibit of 18 South Brooklyn photographs selected by **Joseph** and **Audrey Anastasi** from the 126 images in Mr. Racioppo's new book. These new digital prints express a cross section of the ongoing themes in Larry's work – family, neighborhood, and religion. He scanned and printed over six hundred of his earliest 35mm and 120mm black and white negatives for this project.

**Sean Corcoran**, Curator of Photographs at the Museum of the City of New York, writes about these photographs "I study, and am constantly on the lookout for, compelling photographs of the city. In my more than 15 years of work in the field I have found that many photographers throughout the 1970s and 80s concentrated their efforts on more "fashionable" aspects of city life – in Manhattan or documenting the collapse of the South Bronx. I can say with certainty that there are very FEW photographers like Racioppo who have created extensive archives of images of South Brooklyn."

**Racioppo's** 126 photographs in **Brooklyn Before** are paired with essays by journalist **Tom Robbins** and art critic and curator **Julia Van Haften**.

**Larry Racioppo** was born and raised in South Brooklyn, and he has been photographing throughout New York City since 1971. A former VISTA volunteer and participant in the CETA Artists Project of New York City's Cultural Council Foundation, Larry had his first solo exhibition in 1977 at Brooklyn's *f/stop* Gallery. In 1980 Scribners published his first book of photographs, **Halloween**.

From 1989 until 2011, Larry was the official photographer for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, hired to document the city's rebuilding of distressed neighborhoods, from Bedford-Stuyvesant to Harlem to the South Bronx. After receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship in photography in 1997, Racioppo took a leave from HPD to work on a series of personal projects, including *Forgotten Gateway: The Abandoned Buildings of Ellis Island*, a traveling exhibition of his photographs that originated at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

The New York State Council on the Arts, the Queens Council on the Arts, and the Graham Foundation have supported his work. In 2006 he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Extraordinary Action Grant for *The Word on the Street*, an exhibition at the Museum of Biblical Art in New York. Racioppo's photographs are in the collections of the Museum of the City of New York, the Brooklyn Museum, the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, El Museo del Barrio, and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

To learn more about **Brooklyn Before** and Larry's start as a photographer, please go to his blogpost for Cornell University Press here:

<https://sagehouse.blog/2018/06/28/a-photographer-grows-in-brooklyn/>

To see more of Larry's work, please visit **Larry Racioppo: A Retrospective** on view from September 17, 2018 through December 29, 2018 at the Brooklyn Public Library's Grand Army Plaza branch. Presented by BPL's Brooklyn Collection, which holds hundreds of his photographs, this exhibit features several of Larry's Brooklyn-based projects including Brooklyn Churches, Theatres, Coney Island and Prospect Park. Complementing the September, 2018 publication of his new book **BROOKLYN BEFORE, photographs 1971-83**, the library exhibit displays photographic equipment, books, ephemera and archival material from Larry's career.

## INFO:

**BROOKLYN BEFORE** art exhibition and book signing opens Saturday, September, 29, 2018, with a reception from 3:00 pm until 5:00 at Tabla Rasa Gallery, 224 48 Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. The show continues through Saturday, October 27. Tabla Rasa Gallery is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Call 718.833.9100 for additional hours, events and schedule updates.

[info@TablaRasaGallery.com](mailto:info@TablaRasaGallery.com)

<http://www.tablarasagallery.com/>

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## Directions to Tabla Rasa Gallery

The gallery is located two express subway stops from Manhattan on the "D" or "N" train to 36th Street Station, plus one "R" stop to 45th Street (or a just few short "R" stops beyond Park Slope).

By car, Tabla Rasa is on 48th St between 2nd and 3rd Aves, Brooklyn. Ample street parking is available.

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## About Tabla Rasa Gallery

Tabla Rasa Gallery is located in the burgeoning art destination of Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The gallery is known for their consistently stunning exhibitions. Within the 4000 square foot turn of the century carriage house, the gallery exhibits primary and secondary market artwork by emerging, mid-career, and established artists, in all media, including painting, sculpture, installation, drawing, print media, digital, film and video.

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Exhibitions are free and open to the public. It is recommended to call 718.833.9100 for events and schedule updates.