



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* WASHINGTON, D.C.

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NEW EXHIBIT 'DISTRICT' FEATURES NEVER BEFORE DISPLAYED IMAGES

DISTRICT

CHRIS EARNSHAW

WASHINGTON, DC: The extraordinary eye of photographer Chris Earnshaw captured D.C. during the 1960s and 1970s. *DISTRICT* explores his work – originally conceived as Polaroid prints and nearly lost to time and neglect – as it reflects the demolition, desperation, beauty, and energy in the everyday of the capital city of the era. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. is proud to announce the January 6, 2016 opening of *DISTRICT*, its newest exhibition presented in partnership with artist and archivist Joseph Mills.

According to Joseph Mills, Earnshaw, whose work is in the permanent collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others, is, “one of the finest photographers I have ever had the pleasure and privilege of knowing. He is able to speak in depth of the great architects of his time and place, as well as of the details on the building and the destruction he witnessed of their beautiful works. Whether turned toward a building being wrecked, or a soul being lost, Earnshaw knew instinctively not to interfere with the camera’s ability to see clearly.”

DISTRICT will be on display in the Historical Society's East Gallery on the second floor of the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, 801 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. Following the evening reception on Wednesday January 6, 2016, exhibition hours are 10 am-4 pm, Tuesday through Friday, with additional viewings on Saturday January 30 and Saturday February 20. The exhibition closes Friday, February 26, 2016.

“Chris’s work is an exciting departure for the Historical Society,” said Library and Collections Director Anne McDonough. “This is a gritty and in many ways devastating solo photography show that explores the city’s relatively recent history. And at the same time it continues our long tradition of documenting the built environment and social fabric of the District.”

Currently scheduled programs are described below. Additional programs and registration information can be found at www.DCHistory.org/exhibit-district

Opening reception

Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 6-9 pm

Join the trustees and staff of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. for the first look at *DISTRICT*. Free and open to the public. Prior registration requested.

Art Talk

Saturday, January 30, 12 noon-2 pm

Join the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. for a conversation with Dan Zak of *The Washington Post*, photographer Chris Earnshaw, and artist and archivist Joseph Mills. Free and open to the public. Prior registration requested.

'60s & '70s D.C. Collections Workshop

Tuesday, February 16, 12 noon-2 pm

Take a look at bygone Washington through the resources of the Kiplinger Research Library. This weekday workshop taps into the Historical Society's holdings of maps, photographs, manuscript collections and other archival material relating to the District in the 1960s and 1970s. Topics and featured collections include the Gay Liberation Front; Don't Tear It Down; the diaries of G.I. Sawyer; Ivy City; the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; and the aftermath of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Free and open to the public. Prior registration requested.

Collaborative Programming with the Anacostia Community Museum

Saturday, February 20, 12 noon-2 pm

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and Joshua Gorman, Collections Manager of the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, will discuss topics relating to the social, economic and political changes that form the backdrop for *DISTRICT* as well as the Anacostia Community Museum's current exhibit, *Twelve Years that Shook and Shaped Washington: 1963-1975*. Free and open to the public. Prior registration requested.

The Historical Society's current exhibitions include *Window to Washington: The Kiplinger Collection at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.*, in the Carnegie Library building, and *For the Record: The Art of Lily Spandorf* exhibition, in collaboration with and presented at The George Washington University Museum/The Textile Museum, 701 21st St., NW (on view through summer 2016)

About the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. Founded in 1894, the Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications. Headquartered in the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, 801 K Street NW, the Society's galleries and research library (the latter by appointment) are open Monday through Thursday, 10 am-4 pm. ###