

Between the 1970s and 1990s, Mitch Epstein captured America at play.

In 2005, the American photographer Mitch Epstein published a book of photographs of American people, from New York to Los Angeles, Dallas to Gary, Ind., between the early 1970s and the early 1990s. A new, updated edition of **RECREATION** (Steidl, \$85), edited by Susan Bell and Ryan Spencer, includes 34 previously unseen images, creating an expanded portrait of a nation at various forms of leisure.

Among the first to introduce color photography into the realm of fine art, Epstein captured individuals and groups in a variety of downtime activities: a couple pausing to window-shop outside a boutique in New Orleans, a raunchy performance at a Los Angeles nightclub, a group of men peeking into a Midtown Manhattan construction site, nude beachgoers on Martha's Vineyard. His photographs evoke an unusual array of emotions; they're funny and melancholy, contemplative, nostalgic and a bit lonely. Together these scenes paint a portrait of late-20th-century anomie, of a world without filters, selfies or self-consciousness.

These photos run the gamut from stillness to chaos, but always we seem to be catching people in moments of privacy — a concept all but foreign to Epstein's viewers today. We feel removed from the subjects, as if spying on them from a distance, gazing voyeuristically at these enviably authentic moments from the past. □



Madison Avenue in New York City, 1973.



The Gulf War Veterans' Parade in New York City, 1991.



Santa Monica, Calif., 1974.



Midtown Manhattan, 1979.



The Vietnam Veterans' Parade in New York City, 1973.



Montana's Glacier National Park, 1988.