

Callahan gives a personal view of family

By Les Kresna
Special writer

Harry Callahan was born in Highland Park 20 years ago. In 1968 he married Eleanor Kresna and they have three children. Barbara was born in 1964. From 1967-68 Harry took black and white photographs of his wife and of Barbara during her first seven years.

The result: a sensitive chronicle of family growth, artistic experimentation, and the relationship between man and nature as he grows in the Detroit landscape of Area 1.

While Eleanor and Barbara are often little more than faces amid Chicago streets and parks, the summer winters of Lake Michigan and the late-September photographs may show a more family than we understand these photographs.

That is especially evident in a series of mother-daughter photos in a wet, stormy, overcast street. The mother's light jacket becomes the storm's rain as water runs down and up a street radiator and half-covered sidewalk. The atmosphere is still after the storm but it is every morning.

CALLAHAN also captures the Chicago city scene with its loved ones. Whether walking through Grant Park, or on a downtown street scene, or swimming in Lake Michigan the creative tension in the images—great relationships in movement.

Also interesting is Callahan's love of light, even light. He photographed outdoors in many ways, or what is bright sunlight to make us subjects in the shadows, making it a dark scene and see more detail. This time is view the white water by day.

review

By attention to the particular. Some of Harry Callahan's more striking images, especially those of his family, are striking in their simplicity and their beauty. They manage to be at once candid and lighting and composition, but rarely honest and try-photographic in effect.

The major portion of the exhibit is more studies of Eleanor, embracing with simple and intimate gestures. There is enough variety here among the light and shadow to make the treatment more pleasant and readable and more interesting to those who watch.

Throughout the show the prevailing glow of the grainy, overexposed film makes the viewer feel the subject matter and the mood of the photographs. It is a very interesting way to see a single theme captured with great detail by one of America's most successful photographers.

Callahan has just had a distinguished career as a teacher at the Institute of Design in Chicago and the Chicago Public Schools in Chicago area where he worked in 1977.

It seems fitting to show that Harry and Eleanor Callahan became grandparents in Emilio Garcia's story in *Milwaukee* and Barbara Callahan Ballinger in *1981*. The cycle begins here.



Photographer-teacher Harry Callahan, born in Michigan, used his wife and daughter as models for some of his most important work. His 1968 photographs of Eleanor at Detroit Institute of Arts through Nov. 25 are titled "Eleanor and Barbara."



Harry Callahan's photograph of his wife, done in 1958, is both sensitive and sensual with a dramatic interplay of light and shadow.

Musical treat

Children and adults delight in the musical antics of Sharon, Lois & Brian, who will perform at 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at Detroit Institute of Arts, in addition to appearing on a new Channel 5 series, "The Elementary Show." This Canadian trio has made five albums, which have sold more than 500,000 copies and won many international awards. They are regarded as the best musicians recording for children in North America. Ticket prices \$3 each through the sponsoring Detroit Outbursts, call 462-2700. No children younger than 3 will be admitted.

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