

Throwing light on a lifetime in the shadows



ABOVE: SAUL LEITER, MONDRIAN, 1954

LEFT: SAUL LEITER, KUTZTOWN, 1948

© SAUL LEITER, COURTESY FAGGIONATO FINE ARTS, LONDON

IN HIS SIXTY-YEAR CAREER as a photographer, Saul Leiter has received little recognition. Although his works were selected by Edward Steichen to feature in the photography show *Always the Young Stranger* at MOMA in 1953, he dropped out of public view soon after to pursue a quiet career in fashion photography.

However, after more than 50 years of relative obscurity, the artist, aged 84, is having something of a breakthrough. The first European retrospective of Leiter's street photography has just closed at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris and now his works are coming to England.

Saul Leiter: Early Colour 1948-1959 is the first UK solo exhibition of the artist's groundbreaking early colour works and is being held by Faggionato in association with the Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York.

The exhibition focuses on Leiter's New York Street scenes – a subject that he has returned to again and again throughout his career. Far from being straightforward, the scenes are often half-hidden, veiled and fragmented. Forms are abstracted, tones muted and subjects often cropped at unconventional angles.

There is an element of ambiguity to many of the works – a confusion that Leiter encourages, savouring the moment when “we do not know why (or what) we are looking at and then, all of a sudden, we discover something we start seeing”.

Saul Leiter: Early Colour 1948-1959 runs until July 4 at Faggionato, 49 Albemarle Street. T 020 7409 7979.

art events

UNTIL JUNE 14

Double Perspective

Landscape and abstract works by seven contemporary artists from Venezuela. Maddox Arts, 52 Brook's Mews. Tel: 020 7495 3101.

UNTIL JUNE 21

The Effect: Haim Steinbach

Ten recent sculptures by American artist Haim Steinbach. Waddington Galleries, 11 Cork Street. Tel: 020 7851 2200.

UNTIL JUNE 21

Zhang Qikai

Inaugural UK exhibition for contemporary Chinese artist Zhang Qikai, featuring paintings of his favoured motif, the pan Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Str. Tel: 020 7629 5161.

UNTIL JUNE 21

James Lahey: Your Imperfect History

New paintings by Canadian artist James