


The photographs of 88-year-old George Daniell have enjoyed a renaissance in popularity during the past few years. Two summers ago, the first solo exhibition of Daniell's New York pictures was held at the city's Sarah Morthland Gallery, featuring vintage prints and recently discovered images that were printed for the first time. Bruce Weber's personal collection of photographs includes several by Daniell, and he has named Daniell as an early influence on his own work.

Born in 1911 in Yonkers, New York, Daniell began taking pictures with a Kodak folding camera as a teenager. He studied drawing at Yale University, and on his first trip to Europe in 1933 began photographing in earnest. The following year he returned to New York City and began freelancing. During his most productive years he created iconic documentary scenes of 1940s life in New York City; he captured intimate, insightful images of Sophia Loren, Tennessee Williams and other artists of the time; and his photographs were included in many group and solo exhibitions over the years, including Edward Steichen's famous *Then And Now* exhibition at the Museum Of Modern Art in 1961. The year before, Daniell retired to Maine, where he continues to take photographs and paint.

Daniell's style of documentary photography is well represented in this selection mostly taken from the late '30s: bathers on New York beaches, as well as sailors and muscled fishermen unconsciously going about their business at various New England ports. "I like to photograph people at their best, doing what they're good at," Daniell says, "reacting to their environment and each other, unaware of the camera when possible. I shoot in black-and-white, which has more character and flexibility than colour."

Still with an intense passion for life, Daniell is currently compiling images for a number of proposed books. He hopes to begin discussions with publishers with a view to creating a monograph of his work in the near future.

Vincent Cianni, a photographer, educator and curator who has been actively involved in promoting Daniell's work, believes the photographer's full impact has not yet been felt. "George is one of the great undiscovered photographers of the 1940s and 1950s," Cianni says. "He found and documented beauty in a very honest way. His images are never really layered or complex; they're very straightforward, and that's ultimately what he strived for and achieved." 

GALLERY.

GO FISH

GEORGE DANIELL CAPTURED THE HONEST BRAWN OF THE WORKING MAN OF THE '30s, '40s AND '50s. AN IMPORTANT INSPIRATION FOR BRUCE WEBER, HIS WORK IS REELING IN NEW FANS IN THE '90s.

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