



When Art Talks

Background Information

Hollywood Boulevard

Garry Winogrand (b.1928, d.1984)
American, Los Angeles, 1969
Gelatin silver print
15/16 x 13 3/8 in.
84.XM.1023.12



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About the Art

A disabled man, bent over in a wheelchair, captures the attention of three women walking by and a boy seated on a bus-stop bench. Garry Winogrand's photograph of Hollywood's once-glamorous Walk of Fame depicts strangers reacting to one another in a public space. The image emphasizes an encounter between people of differing social and economic backgrounds and is, therefore, a highly political social commentary. Elongated crisscrossing shadows falling across the celebrity's stars on the boulevard add a touch of melodrama to the momentary interaction.

About the Artist

In 1948, a fellow student and photographer for Columbia University's student paper showed Garry Winogrand the darkroom, which was open twenty-four hours in the basement of the architecture building. Two weeks later, Winogrand abandoned painting for photography and "never looked back." Described as "an undisciplined mixture of energy, ego, curiosity, ignorance, and street-smart naiveté," the Bronx native photographed incessantly, mostly on the streets, working as a freelance photographer for a picture agency and eventually publishing journalistic images in numerous magazines throughout the 1950s.

Around 1960, after being shown a copy of Walker Evans's book *American Photographs*, Winogrand began to take a more-artistic approach in his work. The first half of the decade, however, was a difficult time that included political disillusionment and the breakup of his first marriage. He persevered in his career and eventually published four books of photographs, including *The Animals* in 1969, images made in zoos; and *Women Are Beautiful* in 1975, which captured anonymous women on the street. Winogrand used a small-format, 35mm camera that enabled him to photograph quickly and freely, which he did to the extreme. At the time of his death in 1984, he left more than 2,500 undeveloped rolls of film.