

NED HARRIS

1925-2016



Ned Harris' sixty-year journey behind a lens was a balancing act from 1960s New York street theater to the colors and digital explorations of the present, reveling in people, places and things in a constant state of social and technological transformation. From black and white contrast to color pixels, from organic forms to scanner art, from social observation to conceptual play – all are encompassed in his photographs.

Ned was well-known in Rockland County as a designer, photographer and curator who was the Director of Exhibitions at the Rockland Center for the Arts for many years. In that capacity he focused on photography, including such exhibitions as the acclaimed “100 Years of New York Photography.”

He balanced this local cultural activity with a career as the principal of a large New York package design studio. Commuting to the city daily also gave him the opportunity to indulge in photographing his home town, New York. This interest in recording the city streets continued throughout his life and was the theme of many exhibitions from the 1970's on, beginning with the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, the NY Historical Society, Rockland Center for the Arts and more recently at JCC Culture Center and Garner Arts Center in Rockland.

Ned Harris embraced the many themes that fascinated him, such as faith, memory, the color red and found objects, most of them captured in the confines of his scanner. He took great joy in assembling these whimsical tableaus on his scanner bed, sometimes manipulating them with his hands while they were being scanned, and further enhancing them in his digital darkroom. Everything was fair game, from memory objects of his early youth to gift shop knickknacks to found ephemera. Scanner art was a medium that he discovered late in his career as he explored digital techniques, but using it he employed the same sense of wonder and humor that informed his work throughout his life.