



*For Immediate Release*

## CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY REOPENS WITH NEW EXHIBITION FEATURING SAN FRANCISCO PHOTOGRAPHS BY MINOR WHITE

- ***The California Historical Society will reopen to the public on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020*** with members & donors only preview days on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ***San Francisco Photographs by Minor White*** showcases both sophisticated abstract compositions and socially astute documents that reveal a growing, rapidly modernizing, and ethnically diverse San Francisco.

**SAN FRANCISCO, California, October 30, 2020** – After temporarily closing to the public on March 14, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, California Historical Society (CHS) will welcome visitors back in person beginning November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Members & donors only preview days will take place before public reopening, on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

To ensure the health and well-being of staff and visitors and following the City of San Francisco’s guidance, CHS will operate at a reduced visitor capacity and has implemented new safety protocols. All staff and visitors will be required to wear face masks and follow social distancing measures. Online purchase of gallery admission will also be available in early November. The North Baker Library and Reading Room will remain closed until future notice. For more information on California Historical Society’s reopening policies visit: <https://californiahistoricalsociety.org/about/your-guide-for-visiting-chs/>.

“We are so grateful to finally be able to welcome visitors back to CHS, safely and in-person, for the opening of our new exhibition *San Francisco Photographs by Minor White*,” said Alicia Goehring, Executive Director and CEO of California Historical Society. “The health of our staff and guests remains our top priority, so we will be following every guideline set by the City and County of San Francisco.”

The new exhibition ***San Francisco Photographs by Minor White*** will open to the public at the California Historical Society (678 Mission Street, San Francisco) beginning November 18<sup>th</sup>. The ongoing exhibition *From the Gold Rush to the Earthquake: Selections from the Collection* will also be on view. The galleries will be open Wednesday through Saturday, 12 pm to 5:30 pm.

Shortly after completing a tour of duty in the South Pacific, photographer Minor White spent the late 1940s teaching at the California School of Fine Arts (today’s San Francisco Art Institute). During those years he photographed San Francisco extensively, capturing a city in the midst of a postwar boom. The photographs are at once sophisticated abstract compositions and socially astute documents that picture a growing, rapidly modernizing, and more demographically diverse San Francisco. White photographed African Americans in the Fillmore District, previously inhabited by Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during the war. In the Financial District, he saw a new class of office workers—women. All throughout postwar San Francisco he saw construction as the Victorian Gold Rush city gave way to

trucks, freeways, and newly poured cement sidewalks. This exhibition is drawn exclusively from the more than 400 photographs White gave to the California Historical Society in 1957.

“Minor White set out to document every part of San Francisco, from the Embarcadero to the Pacific Ocean,” says Erin Garcia California Historical Society’s Director of Exhibitions. “Though less introspective than his best-known work, his catalogue of the city revealed social undercurrents even as it focused primarily on the built environment.”

### **About the California Historical Society**

Founded in 1871, the California Historical Society (CHS) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California’s richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. In 1979 Governor Jerry Brown designated CHS the official historical society of the State of California. Today, CHS enacts its mission with a wide range of library, exhibition, publication, education, and public outreach programs that explore the complex and continuing history of the state and represent the diversity of the California experience, past and present. Our treasured collection—documenting the history of the entire state from the Spanish Era to the present day—is brought to life through these innovative public history projects that expand and diversify our audience and broaden our public impact. Learn more at [californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://californiahistoricalsociety.org).

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