

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLIAM ROPP

CHILDREN

February 17 – March 26, 2005

*Opening reception:
Thursday, February 17th, 2005
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.*

ClampArt is pleased to announce "Children," an exhibition of photographs by French artist, William Ropp, which coincides with the release of the monograph of the same title from Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg. While having exhibited extensively throughout Europe for the past fifteen years, the exhibition at ClampArt represents the artist's first solo show in the United States.

William Ropp has concentrated upon experimental portraiture for a great deal of time. However, it was only recently that he began specifically focusing upon children. From the start, Ropp approached his portrait sessions with young people in the same manner as he worked with his adult models—with his camera firmly fixed on a tripod in absolute darkness. Then, with a more than fifty-year-old Czech-made flashlight, the artist selectively "paints" his subjects with light during the course of extended exposures. Ropp never suggests a particular emotion to his models. The children, who are asked to sit relatively still in utter blackness, naturally seem to look deeply within themselves. The artist regards the expressions he records as neither cheerful nor sad. Rather, he interprets these photographs as images of young people in contemplation from the vantage of having just begun life.

Ropp has written, "If I had to frame my own childhood in one single picture, I would say, without the slightest hesitation, that this image would be full of seriousness; it would be as serious as the future—full of the hopes and doubts, fears and questions that I sensed looming toward me from off in the distance."

William Ropp's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions across Europe in recent years. His photographs are also represented in many major public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The New York Public Library, New York City; The Polaroid Collection, Waltham, Massachusetts; Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, Switzerland; Maison Européenne pour la Photographie, Paris; Fotomuseum Mölkau, Leipzig-Mölkau, Germany; Museo de Arte Moderno de Vitoria Artium, Spain; Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark; among many others.

For more information and images please contact Brian Paul Clamp, Director, or see www.clampart.com. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Image: ©William Ropp, "Yvain," 2002, Toned gelatin silver print.

