

CRITIC'S PICK

'Picture Stories: Photographs by Arlene Gottfried'

Through May 25 at the New York Historical, 170 Central Park West, Manhattan;
nyhistory.org.

Arlene Gottfried was drawn to everyday folks who sparkled with the flair of performers. And through her eyes, New York took on the excitement of a circus. In her heyday, during the 1970s and '80s, she prowled the city with her camera, finding colorful characters who responded with a knowing urban gaze. Typically, they were Black, Puerto Rican, Jewish, gay. In the neighborhoods where she lived and hung out — the Lower East Side, East Harlem, Crown Heights, Coney Island and Greenwich Village — these groups mixed freely, brewing up a heady cocktail that intoxicated her, as can be seen in this small, tantalizing exhibition at the New York Historical, to commemorate its recent acquisition of nearly 300 of Gottfried's photographs. [Read the review.](#)