

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE FRIEDLANDER****14 September - 28 November 1993**

Montréal, 14 September 1993 -- Over the past thirty years, the American photographer Lee Friedlander (born 1934) extensively photographed what he has described as "the American social landscape and its conditions". His work is concerned not with the systematic and thorough documentation of various North American cities, but with something far more elusive: discovering in their monotony, vulgarity and disorder – a particular urban character. In his photographs, startling and often visually disorienting juxtapositions of automobiles, buildings, statues, and signs create a dense, urban collage.

Letters from the People: Photographs by Lee Friedlander specifically deals with words and language – how commercial signs and graffiti structure our perception of urban environment and, to a large extent, define our relationship to it. Signs are both a source of information and an incentive to consumerism; graffiti are a forum for political outcry and social commentary as well as an opportunity for uninhibited self-expression. In this exhibition, the arrangement of the photographs – a sprawling alphabet, a sequence of numbers, city views with signs and snatches of graffiti – deliberately simulates the incessant, visual noise of large cities, where disconnected messages and disembodied utterances compete with one another for attention.

The exhibition is curated by David Harris, Associate Curator, Photographs Collection of the CCA. It coincides with the publication of Lee Friedlander's fourteenth book, Letters from the People and is presented in conjunction with Montréal's month-long, bi-annual celebration of photography, **Le Mois de la Photo**.



Information:

Daniela Renosto
Head of Communications Services
or
Brigitte St-Laurent Taddeo
Press Relations Coordinator and Publicist
Canadian Centre for Architecture
(514) 939-7000