



Karl Baden

*Coney Island Beach Sleepers, 1977*

February 17 - March 25, 2023

We are pleased to announce *Coney Island Beach Sleepers, 1977*, a solo exhibition of early photographs by Karl Baden. This is Baden's 17th solo exhibition with the gallery dating back to 1984.

In the summer of 1977, Karl Baden was 25 years old, staying outside of New York City while preparing to attend graduate school in Chicago. In order to relieve the boredom of a suburban existence, he bought a few rolls of Kodachrome film and drove into Brooklyn. Back then Brooklyn, and especially Coney Island, seemed like another planet. Baden photographed a bit on the boardwalk, and in his own words: "Was soon drawn to people sleeping and spooning on the beach. I loved the colors and the paraphernalia with which they surrounded themselves: newspapers, cigarettes, goggles, sunblock, transistor radios..." The film was processed and returned to Baden, who was too busy packing and moving to pay it much attention. The slides remained in their yellow Kodak mailer until 2020, when they were rediscovered and printed.

Looking back, these pre-digital artifacts seem almost quaint; a visual record of another time. The response to a photographer seemed more innocent and accepting. "I doubt if I could take these pictures today", Baden says.

This is the first time the work has been exhibited.