

Hugh Holland

Angels – Street. Skate. Seventies.

20 June-29 July 2007

Crane Kalman Brighton is proud to announce the first UK exhibition of photographer Hugh Holland's iconic *Angels* series. After recent first showings in Los Angeles and New York, the exhibition, entitled **Angels. Street. Skate. Seventies** will open at Crane Kalman Brighton on 21st June to coincide with National Go Skateboarding Day.

These seminal images document the classic era of the early skateboard scene in California in the early 1970's, with many of the images featuring the now legendary names of the sport, such as Jay Adams and Stacy Peralta. Holland began documenting the burgeoning phenomenon in 1975 after becoming instantly captivated through a chance encounter with a group of skateboarding kids whilst driving up Laurel Canyon Boulevard.

Fervent enthusiasm for the energy of the counterculture quickly certified Holland's acceptance within the community. Every spare moment was spent capturing the everyday social interactions of groups, such as the notorious Z-boys from Santa Monica and Venice and the skaters of Kenter Canyon, Paul Revere and Brentwood.

Holland successfully captures the exhilaration and rebellion felt during the birth of the scene. The summer drought of 1976 especially illustrates the attitude, when the skate kids seized the opportunity to brake into and carve up the emptied California neighbourhood pools and street drainage bowls.

Holland, a self-taught artist had been experimenting with photography since the late 1960's but didn't discover this definitive subject until his move to Los Angeles from his native Oklahoma. His colour images are exceptional in their on going contemporary feel. Shot with a special colour film and often taken during late afternoon, everything is bathed by the soft illumination of the low-lying sun. Special attention is paid to line and form, transforming the snap shot images to appear like carefully composed film stills.

Angels. Street. Skate. Seventies is a unique testament to a generation of young men and a previously unforeseen insight into the naissance of the skateboarding phenomenon before its commercial explosion.

Angels. Street. Skate. Seventies by Hugh Holland runs at Crane Kalman Brighton from 21st June to 29th July. For any further information or imagery, please contact Richard Kalman on 01273 697096 or enquiries@cranekalmanbrighton.com