



Diane Arbus, *A Young Brooklyn Family Going for a Sunday Outing, New York City, 1966*, gelatin silver print, 50.5 x 40.5 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Focusing primarily on aspects of American culture, New York-based artist Diane Arbus (1923–1971) was committed to developing a relationship between herself and her subjects in her art practice. Commencing with a career in fashion photography, Arbus veered towards a more personal genre in the mid-1950s, photographing individuals and families both in public and in

domestic spaces. Arbus's photographs highlight the mundane aspects of everyday life while revealing the realities of marginalized people. *A Young Brooklyn Family Going for a Sunday Outing, New York City* (1966) is a candid, close-up family portrait of Richard and Marilyn Dauria, their young daughter and cognitively challenged son. This work presents the narrative of a young working-class family dealing with the stigma of cognitive disability. The family presents the best versions of themselves in a public environment: the mother's hair is perfectly coiffed and her face is heavily made up; the children are dressed in pristine white garments; and the father is sporting a stylish topcoat and slacks. Arbus's use of a camera flash in midday produces starkly rendered faces against a soft unfocused background, imbuing the image with an unnatural feel. Representative of an American working-class family, the Daurias reflect Arbus's interest in non-conventional depictions of non-conventional peoples.

Dina Georganos