



Clara Gutsche, *Helen*, from the Series "The Cencic Sisters," 1975, gelatin silver chlorobromide print, selenium toned, 12.6 x 10 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Clara Gutsche (b. 1949) is an American Canadian photographer and teacher of photography at Concordia University and Champlain College Saint Lambert. Combining traditional portraiture with a documentary style in large format prints, Gutsche's works explore the individuality and

identity of their subjects. She typically works in black and white but has ventured into colour film in recent years. This close-up portrait of Helen in three-quarter profile from *The Cenci Sisters* series (1974–76) captures her personality in a way that formal portraiture could not. She is bathed in natural lighting as she stands outdoors against a brick wall. Helen's strong gaze and furrowed brow convey confidence and concentration. The shot is taken from a slightly upward angle, giving her a powerful presence that belies her young age.

Twyla Hatt