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LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM INAUGURATES NEW GALLERY WITH EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY HARVEY WANG

"Out Harvey Wang's Window" Extends the Museum's Story of Lower East Side Life into the Late 20th Century

November 1, 2011, New York, NY -- The Lower East Side Tenement Museum will present a solo exhibition of the work of New York photographer Harvey Wang at its newly completed Sadie Samuelson Levy Immigrant Heritage Center. Opening on November 30, "Out Harvey Wang's Window" will be the first exhibition at the Center.

The exhibition explores the ongoing evolution of the Lower East Side through 22 black-andphotographs white accompanying response texts from Museum staff members. Taken between 1979 and 1993. Wang's images fascinating and often-forgotten stories of immigrant working class New Yorkers. The traditions, homes and everyday lives of Wang's subjects are captured with tenderness and clarity, revealing powerful glimpses complex neighborhood's history.



Harvey Wang, Mr. Wong's Kitchen, 1980

Through guided tours of its historic tenement at 97 Orchard Street, the Tenement Museum tells the stories of immigrant families in the late 19th and early 20th century. Its public tours, evening programs and award-winning educational initiatives explore the history of New York City and the American immigrant experience while sparking conversations about contemporary issues. The Museum's re-created tenement apartments bring to life the predecessors of Wang's subjects.

"Harvey Wang's photographs are beautiful and historically important. They echo the mission of the Tenement Museum and extend the stories we tell into the late 20th Century", said Annie Polland, Vice President of Education at the Museum. "We're so excited that our new Visitor Center includes a gallery space for exhibitions like this one."

About Harvey Wang

Harvey Wang has published five books of photography, all critically acclaimed portraits of Americans from many walks of life. He is also a commercial director and filmmaker. He has won two Emmy Awards and his award-winning films, ranging in style and approach from documentary to experimental, have been screened in festivals all over the world.

His books include Flophouse: Life on the Bowery (Random House) and Holding On: Dreamers, Visionaries, Eccentrics and Other American Heroes (W.W. Norton & Co.), both collaborations with oral historian and radio luminary David Isay. Harvey Wang's New York (W.W. Norton & Co.) is a book of portraits of older New Yorkers whose occupations and way of life are being threatened by change. This book was called "a humane modern classic" by the Washington Post. First published in 1990, the book is still in print.

Wang has exhibited widely at museums, including the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, the New-York Historical Society, and the Museum of the City of New York. In addition to his portrait photography, Wang has exhibited photographs from his travels in Africa and across the United States, and from his life in New York City, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s.

About the Tenement Museum

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, founded in 1988, is located in a landmarked tenement building at 97 Orchard Street. The building was home to more than 7,000 immigrants from more than twenty nations between 1863 and 1935. Anchored in a neighborhood that has long been home to thousands of poor and working class people, the Tenement Museum is dedicated to using the history of its site as a tool for addressing issues that are still relevant today, including immigration. In 2008 the Museum was honored with the Preserve America Presidential Award and the National Medal for Museum Service.

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