

NOVA Gallery: 1976–81

April 1–30, 2025

Open Saturdays, 2–6pm, or by appointment

Thanks to all who stopped by for the preview on
Saturday, March 29, 12–6pm

Thanks to Capture Photography Festival for including
NOVA Gallery: 1976–81 in their Selected Exhibitions
program this year.

And, thanks to Claudia Beck and the late Andrew Gruft,
to Helga Pakasaar, to Jack Buquet, and to the late Don
Atkins, and, most of all, to all the artists.

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NOVA Gallery has been at the centre and the periphery
of many histories of photography in Vancouver.

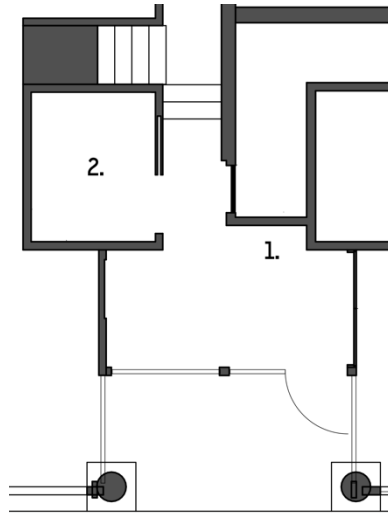
Acknowledging the stories that have already been told,
OHCE-ECHO presents “a little history” of the gallery,
centred on a poster archive documenting the fifty-odd
exhibitions that were held at 1972 West 4th Avenue
between December 1976 and June 1981.

Ostensibly a commercial gallery with storefront
exhibition space, a library of photo books, and flat files
full of photographs, NOVA mixed commerce and
community with occasional sales and serious research.
Co-founders Claudia Beck and Andrew Gruft, along with
curator Helga Pakasaar, encouraged and sustained
conversations on photography that carried in and out
from the city’s studios, galleries, and less formal spaces.

Close up and in sequence, the posters describe difference
and repetition, alternating contemporary and historical
practices, solos and pairings, and thematic or less wieldy
groups, and together reflect the variable circulations of
timely and urgent ideas and the availability of new—
even if vintage—prints.

In April, all are welcome at OHCE-ECHO to name and
recall the artists, artworks, and exhibitions that
contributed to a dynamic local community in its time,
and that continue to offer point, counterpoint, or potential
for contemporary practices, lens-based and otherwise.

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1. Jeff Wall, *The Destroyed Room*, 1978/2005
backlit cibachrome transparency, 75.6 x 100.0
cm, unique small version
2. *NOVA Gallery posters*, 1976–81
offset printed posters, dimensions variable,
most approx. 42.5 x 19.0 cm, designed by Jack
Buquet, printed by Don Atkins of Benwell-
Atkins Ltd.
NOVA Gallery ephemera and references,
1976–81, and later

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A note from OHCE-ECHO on *The Destroyed Room*:

“As many of my generation, for many years, all I knew of NOVA Gallery was this image, photographer unidentified, of *The Destroyed Room*, immense in the window of what I knew by experience as Zulu Records. Never mind that I had never seen the work itself, or m/any of the other works exhibited at NOVA. In the present, I hope that this (miniature) mirroring—at a non-commercial project space—can offer a rare view of an important era in the history of photography in this city, as well as trace a continuity of independent spaces and exhibitions, over time and new circumstances.”

OHCE-ECHO

> <http://bedroomkitchen.garden/ohce-echo>