

REVIEWS

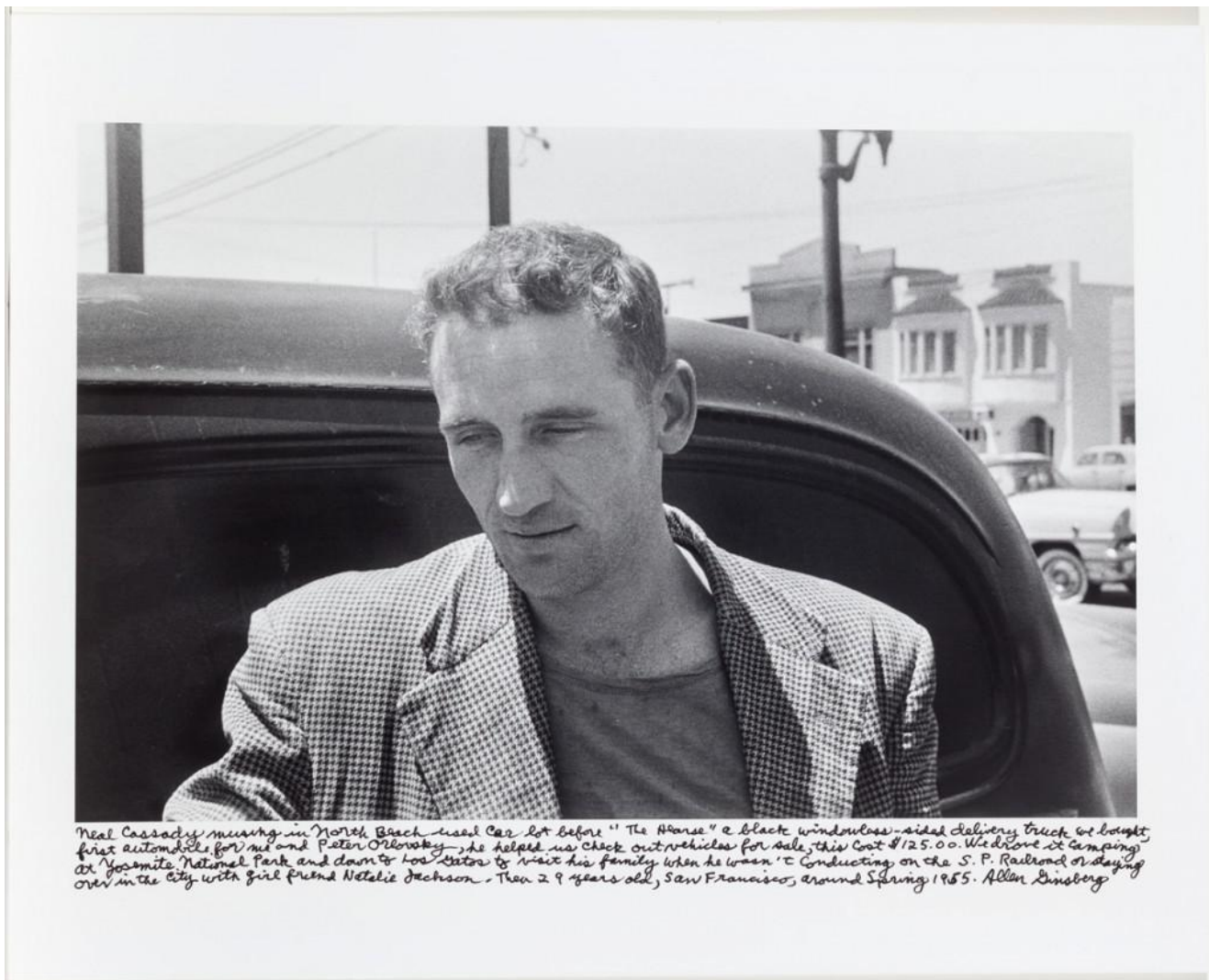


Ginsberg Glimpses: A Tour of the Beat Poet's Portrait Photographs

University of Toronto Art Centre (UTAC), Toronto September 2 to December 6, 2014

OCTOBER 9, 2014

BY [CANADIAN ART](#)



Neal Cassady at North Beach used car lot, San Francisco, 1955 © Allen Ginsberg LLC, 2013.

The University of Toronto now holds the world's largest collection of photographs from beat poet Allen Ginsberg. It is a rare and privileged holding, as the Ginsberg estate has forbid any further prints to be struck from original negatives. Many of the existing prints were made under the

supervision of legendary American photographer Robert Frank.

While the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library holds the bulk of the donation, the [University of Toronto Art Centre](#) arguably holds the jewel: over 200 large-format photographs printed in the 1980s onto which Ginsberg has handwritten captions. These photos are now on view at the Centre in an exhibition entitled "We Are Continually Exposed to the Flashbulb of Death: The Photographs of Allen Ginsberg (1953–1996)."

In this video review, associate editor David Balzer explores the genesis of the photographs, their capturing of the Beat ethos and of the personal, domestic dynamics of the movement's figures—as well as their portrayal of the legacy of the Beats, which survived well past the 1950s.

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Note to the reader: The text in this article was corrected on October 21, 2014. The previous text referred to the Ginsberg archive as a purchase rather than a donation.