

For Immediate Release  
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*Thirty Years: The Legacy of John Cleary Gallery*  
Opening Reception: Saturday, June 27, 5 - 7 pm  
Exhibition on View: June 27 - September 5, 2026

(Houston, TX) - Catherine Couturier Gallery is delighted to present *Thirty Years: The Legacy of John Cleary Gallery*. 2026 marks the thirtieth year of the gallery's existence, having opened in the same space on Gallery Row in 1996 as John Cleary Gallery. The history of the gallery is a complicated one with less-than-regular milestones, but this celebration of the life and legacy of John Cleary brings us back to the very beginning.

After taking a class on collecting photography taught by Houston-legends Anne Tucker and Geoff Winningham at Rice University in the late 1970s, John Cleary purchased his first photograph: Robert Doisneau's *Le Manège de Monsieur Barré (Mr. Barré's Carousel)*, 1955 (as mentioned in the Houston Chronicle's article on John's life, published January 30, 2008). Details of the inaugural exhibition in the gallery are somewhat unclear—John once said it was a Doisneau show, while one long-time collector remembers it as a French street photography show, and another recalls that it simply featured famous photographers. Although the specifics may be lost to history and the fallibility of memory, we are pleased to present an homage to this exhibition which will feature French photographers and more, including John's first Doisneau and the exact André Kertész print which was sold at that first show in 1996.



Robert Doisneau, *Le Manège de Monsieur Barré (Mr. Barré's Carousel)*, 1955

The gallery welcomed Catherine Couturier as Gallery Manager in 1999, who would go on to buy the gallery after the sudden passing of John in 2008. 4 years later, the gallery's name was updated as well. Although Catherine has now owned the gallery longer than he ever did, John played an unmistakably important role in both her life and in Houston's photography scene, having founded what is now Houston's longest running fine art photography gallery. His legacy is carried on by the gallery, by the collectors and friends who have stayed with us for these three decades, and by the Houston photographic community itself.

Please join us for the opening reception on Saturday, June 27 from 5 to 7 pm at Catherine Couturier Gallery.

Catherine Couturier Gallery is located at 2635 Colquitt St., Houston, TX 77098. Gallery hours are 10am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday. For more information visit our website at [catherinecouturier.com](http://catherinecouturier.com) or for press requests please contact Zan Zeller at [gallery@catherinecouturier.com](mailto:gallery@catherinecouturier.com).