

## The Weekly Wire: This Week's Recommended Events

By **SW Staff** Wednesday, Feb 6 2013

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### **Photography: A Posthumous Prodigy**

The belated discovery of street photographer **Vivian Maier** (1926–2009) is one of those great stories in which an artist becomes known solely for her work. Maier, a nanny who never married, roamed postwar Chicago with her trusty Rolleiflex, often framing herself in glass reflection shots. Not until 2007 was this outsider artist discovered and her work shown; then, immediately, she was hailed as the long-lost cousin of **Robert Frank** and **Henri Cartier-Bresson**. Some of her shots are stolen, taken of strangers on the sly. Others are impromptu portraits; Maier was evidently not too shy to ask people to pose for her. They probably thought she was taking snapshots, and it's unclear if Maier viewed herself as an artist. Yet with her archives still being cataloged (and some film not yet processed!), many now consider Maier one of the foremost women photographers of the 20th century—right up there with **Diane Arbus** or **Cindy Sherman**. Yet sadness is part of Maier's legacy, too: Her huge cache of images, unseen by the public, was auctioned piecemeal out of storage not long before her death. Though not indigent, she didn't live long enough to enjoy profit or fame. Her career essentially sprang from the grave. Tonight, PCNW will present a talk by **Richard Cahan**, co-author of ***Vivian Maier: Out of the Shadows*** (CityFiles, \$60), with collector **Jeffrey Goldstein** also delivering remarks. (Through March 28.) **Photo Center NW, 900 12th Ave., 720-7222, [pcnw.org](http://pcnw.org). \$8–\$10. 6:30 p.m. (Also note opening reception: 6–8 p.m. Fri., Feb. 15.)** BRIAN MILLER