

FINANCIAL TIMES

SNAPSHOT: WAR/POST-WAR BY FONS IANNELLI

By Annalisa Quinn, June 16, 2017



The subjects of many of Fons Iannelli's black and white prints are classically midcentury American — baseball, pie, a drive-in diner, lines of soldiers below a waving flag. But the photographs have a precariousness and grimy immediacy that Norman Rockwell never gave his pink-cheeked patriots from the same era. The people in Iannelli's photographs are not only suburban families but impoverished coal miners, caught dirt-faced, or mid-mouthful, squinting, scowling or wiping their noses.

In the exhibition War/PostWar, the sweet and untidy intimacy of these domestic shots, such as "Father and Daughters Doing Dishes in Kitchen" contrasts with the gleaming, ordered aeroplanes and lines of soldiers in his earlier military photography. One of these Americas, he seems to say, paid for the other.