

German Lorca, *Looking for a Job*, 1948-51

German Lorca's black and white print is entitled 'Looking for a Job' and was taken some time between 1948 and 1951. Two men in suits read newspapers on a street in bright midday sunshine. Sharp shadows fall on the wall behind them. They stand turned away from each other, as if to preserve their privacy as they search through job adverts, standing close to a huge wall of polished granite – perhaps a bank or a government building. The wall is featureless, apart from scuffs at ground level. The pavement under the men's polished shoes is of small, regular concrete blocks. The man on the right wears a trilby and dark suit, his back turned to us with one shoulder leaning against the wall as he holds the 'Diario Popular' – the People's Journal – open, close to his body, creating a triangle of private space. The man on the left has a neat side-parting in his oiled hair, and pressed creases in his trousers. He reads the same paper with arms extended, revealing a headline in Portuguese which refers to a widening gap of some kind...

Sérgio Burgi of the Instituto Moreira Salles describes the photograph as emulating 'both the verticality and intensive growth of the metropolis without hiding its inherent social and human contradictions and anguishes'. He continues, 'German Lorca is one of the great exponents of modern photography in Brazil. His photographs, with a strong formal and abstract bias, are based on constructions of light and shadow from the landscape, architecture, characters, objects or still lifes.'