Barbara Morgan (American, born 1900)
*Spring on Madison Square*, 1938

Patricia Macdonald in collaboration with Angus Macdonald
*Change of state series No. 1, Melting ice (triptych), #3*
Barbara Morgan (American, born 1900)

Spring on Madison Square, 1938 (two versions)

‘...[various factors] inclined [Morgan] away from the analytical objectivity of the period’s photography, and toward an approach to the medium that might attempt to deal in a more direct, less circumstantial way with matters of the spirit.

Morgan’s best known work is perhaps that based on the subject of modern dance. Contrary to what is often assumed, [Morgan’s dance photographs] are not a document of the dances as they were publicly performed, but new variations evolved ... specifically for the sake of a photographic expression. The subject of the photographs is gesture, form, movement, and space; their intention is a synthesis of the motives and rhythms of life itself.’

John Szarkowski, MOMA, Looking at Photographs, pp 136-7