



**HENRI
CARTIER
BRESSON**

Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004)

BIOGRAPHY

- Born in Chanteloup-en-Brie, Seine-et-Marne, Henri Cartier-Bresson developed a strong fascination with painting early on, and particularly with Surrealism.
- In **1932**, after spending a year in the Ivory Coast, he discovered the Leica – his camera of choice after that moment – and began a life-long passion for photography.
- In **1933**, he had his first exhibition at the Julien Levy Gallery in New York. He later made films with Jean Renoir.
- Taken prisoner of war in **1940**, he escaped on his third attempt in 1943 and subsequently joined an underground organization to assist prisoners and escapees.
- In **1945**, he photographed the liberation of Paris with a group of professional journalists and then filmed the documentary *Le Retour* (The Return).
- In **1947**, with Robert Capa, George Rodger, David 'Chim' Seymour and William Vandivert, he founded Magnum Photos. After three years he had spent travelling in the East, in 1952, he returned to Europe, where he published his first book, *Images à la Sauvette* (published in English as *The Decisive Moment*).
- From **1968**, he began to curtail his photographic activities, preferring to concentrate on drawing and painting.
- In **2003**, with his wife and daughter, he created the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris for the preservation of his work. Cartier-Bresson received an extraordinary number of prizes, awards, and honorary doctorates.
- He died at his home in Provence on **3 August 2004**, a few weeks short of his 96th birthday.



Hyeres
France. 1932



For me the camera is a sketch book, an instrument of intuition and spontaneity, the master of the instant which, in visual terms, questions and decides simultaneously. It is by economy of means that one arrives at simplicity of expression.

Henri Cartier Bresson

Gare St Lazare, Paris. 1932

COLLECTIONS

- Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France
- De Menil Collection, Houston, USA
- University of Fine Arts, Osaka, Japan
- Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
- Musée Carnavalet, Paris, France
- The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- The Art Institute of Chicago, USA
- The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, USA
- International Center of Photography, New York, USA
- The Philadelphia Art Institute, Philadelphia, USA
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
- Kahitsukan Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan
- Museum of Modern Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
- Tate, London, UK
- Stockholm Modern Museum, Stockholm, Sweden



Sifnos, Greece. 1961



Seville, Spain. 1933



Alicante, Spain. 1933



Valencia, Spain. 1933

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