

# HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON

## Fotografo

21 ottobre 2017 > 25 febbraio 2018  
Galleria d'Arte Moderna  
Palermo, Via Sant'Anna 21

### Early Life

- 1908** Born 22 August at Chanteloup, Seine-et-Marne. Educated at the Lycée Condorcet, Paris.
- 1926** Studies painting under André Lhote. XXXXX Takes his first photographs
- 1930** Spends almost one year in the Ivory Coast.
- 1931** Discovers in the arts magazine *Arts et Métiers Graphiques* a photography by Martin Munkacsi and decides to focus on photography.

### First Photographic experiments

- 1932** Buys its first Leica and travels in Europe with his friends Leonor Fini and Pieyre de Mandiargues.  
First publications in *Voilà* and *Photographies*.
- 1933** First exhibition at the Julien Levy Gallery, New York. His photographs are subsequently shown at the Ateneo Club in Madrid.
- 1934** Goes to Mexico with an ethnographic expedition. The mission failed but he decides to stay there.

### The Cinema

- 1935** Exhibits with Manuel Alvarez Bravo at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico and one month later at the Julien Levy Gallery with Walker Evans and Manuel Alvarez-Bravo.  
Spends some time in the USA, where he discovers filmmaking with Paul Strand and Nykino Group.
- 1936** Works as second assistant to Jean Renoir on *Une partie de campagne* (A Day in the Country) and *La vie est à nous*.
- 1937** Directs two documentaries; *Victoire de la vie* (Return to Life) on the medical care of Republican Spain and *With the Abraham Lincoln Brigade*, on the American soldiers' life during Second World War. Photographic reportage on the coronation of George VI published in the newspaper *Ce Soir*.

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- 1938** Directs, upon request by Spanish Secours Populaire, a documentary about Spanish Civil War, *L'Espagne vivra*.
- 1939** Joins Jacques Becker and André Zvoboda as an assistant on Jean Renoir's *La Règle du jeu* (The Rules of the Game).

### The War Years

- 1940** Joins the "Film and Photography" unit of the Third Army. Taken prisoner by the Germans on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 1943** Escapes at his third attempt in February 1943. Works for MNPGD, a secret organization set up to help prisoners and escapees.
- 1944** For Editions Braun, takes a series of photographic portraits of writers and artists (Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Pierre Bonnard, Paul Claudel, Georges Rouault...).
- 1945** Directs "Le Retour" (The Return), a documentary on the repatriation of prisoners of war and detainees.

### Professional Photographer

- 1946-47** Spends over a year in the USA. Upon *Harper's Bazaar* request, he travels for a few months with John Malcolm Brinnin to photograph artists and writers.
- 1947** Exhibition *Photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.  
Creates the cooperative agency Magnum Photos with Robert Capa, David Seymour (Chim), William Vandivert and George Rodger
- 1948-50** In the Far East for three years, in India for the death of Gandhi, China for the last six months of the Kuomintang and the first six months of the People's Republic and in Indonesia for independence. His photographs are published all over the world.
- 1952** His first book, *Images à la Sauvette*, cover by Matisse, is published by Tériade.  
First exhibition in England, *Photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts.
- 1953** Travels in Europe for Holiday.

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- 1954** Publication by Robert Delpire of his books *Les Danses à Bali* and *D'une Chine à l'autre*, marking the beginning of a long collaboration with Delpire. He is the first photographer allowed in the USSR from the beginning of the Cold War.
- 1955** First exhibition in France at the Pavillon de Marsan in the Louvre. Tériade publishes *Les Européens* (cover illustrated by Miró).
- 1958** Returns to China for three months for the tenth anniversary of the People's Republic of China.
- 1961** Realizes a set of portraits for the magazine *Queen*.
- 1963** Returns to Mexico for the second time. *Life Magazine* sends him to Cuba.
- 1965** Spends several months travelling in Japan.
- 1966** Returns to India.
- 1967** Commissioned by IBM to create *Man and Machine*. This project becomes an exhibition and a book.
- 1968-69** Spends a year travelling around France for *Reader's Digest* and publishes a book *Vive la France*, to accompany the exhibition "En France" staged at the Grand Palais in 1970.
- 1970-71** In the USA directs two documentaries for CBS News; *Southern Exposures* and *Impressions de Californie*.
- 1972-73** Returns to the USSR.

### Back to drawing

- 1974** Terminates his active working relationship with Magnum Photos, although the agency distribution retains his archives. Concentrates on drawing
- 1975** First exhibition of drawings at the Carlton Gallery, New York.
- 1987** Photographic exhibition *The Early Work* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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- 1988** The Centre National de la Photographie celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Creation of the HCB Award.
- 2000** With his wife Martine Franck and daughter Mélanie, makes plans to set up the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation, to provide a permanent home for his collected works as well as an exhibition space open to other artists.
- 2002** The Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation is recognised as being of public interest by French State.
- 2003** Opening of the Foundation Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris. Retrospective exhibition *De qui s'agit-il?* at the Bibliothèque nationale de France.
- 2004** Cartier-Bresson dies peacefully in Montjustin, Provence on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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