

PRESS RELEASE

HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON'S MASTERFUL PHOTOGRAPHS CONVEY INDIA'S MID-CENTURY TURMOIL IN FORTHCOMING RUBIN MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Opening April 21, "India in Full Frame" offers Magnum photographer's perspective on Gandhi's final day, key political events, and everyday moments in mid-century India

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See India in transition through Henri Cartier-Bresson's masterful photos at @RubinMuseum 4/21. <http://rma.cm/1pz>



As @MagnumPhotos turns 70, see co-founder Henri Cartier-Bresson's India photos at @RubinMuseum. <http://rma.cm/1pz>

New York, NY (January 30, 2017) – The Rubin Museum of Art will present “Henri Cartier-Bresson: India in Full Frame,” illustrating the pioneering photographer’s perspective on India in a period of political and cultural turmoil. Opening on April 21, 2017, the exhibition also coincides with the 70th anniversary of Magnum Photos, the cooperative agency co-founded by Cartier-Bresson. The exhibition features 69 photographs, selected by the artist, from his travels in India during the mid-twentieth century as well as his letters, camera, and other personal ephemera, shown in this configuration for the first time in the United States. This selection of Cartier-Bresson’s India work includes images of political leaders, refugees from India’s partition from Pakistan, and everyday people, offering insight into his deep understanding of issues that continue to resonate today.

Cartier-Bresson is best known for his “street photography” that has influenced generations of photographers and was developed during his travels around the world. His first trip to India was in 1947, when the country was undergoing a massive political transition having gained independence from Britain that year. A key set of photographs on view show Mahatma Gandhi’s final hours, and events following his assassination, which helped catapult Cartier-Bresson to international fame when they were published in LIFE Magazine and other outlets.

“Students and connoisseurs of photography are likely familiar with Cartier-Bresson’s humanist street photography that reveals a precise but sensitive geometry framed around a key instant, which he famously termed the ‘decisive moment.’ This exhibition highlights both his photographs of the everyday and many important moments in modern Indian history,” said Beth Citron, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Rubin and organizer of this exhibition. “They reflect Cartier-

Bresson’s mastery of his medium, as well as his abiding interest in the people and sites of India.”

In addition to the photographs, the exhibition will delve into public perceptions of Cartier-Bresson’s work through its publication in news outlets such as LIFE Magazine. An audio tour will accompany the exhibition, and the Rubin Museum will also screen a series of four films which exemplify Henri Cartier-Bresson’s lesser-known influence on cinema, including “The Rules of the Game” and The Apu Trilogy films. Full program listings can be found at rubinmuseum.org.

“Henri Cartier-Bresson: India in Full-Frame” is organized by the Rubin Museum of Art in collaboration with Magnum Photos and the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation, and supported by The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, David Solo, an anonymous donor, and contributors to the 2017 Exhibitions Fund. The exhibition is curated by Beth Citron, and the design and installation are overseen by Fabiana Weinberg, Exhibition Designer, both of the Rubin Museum.

About Henri Cartier-Bresson

Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004) studied painting in the 1920s and made a serious commitment to photography in the early 1930s. In 1935 he studied film with Paul Strand, and later worked as assistant to the director Jean Renoir. In 1937 in Spain, he made a documentary on Republican hospitals. Captured by the Germans in 1940, he spent three years in prisoner-of-war camps before he escaped and joined the Paris underground, filming the homecoming of French POWs. In 1947 he founded the photographic agency Magnum with Robert Capa, David Seymour and others. His work took him all over the world – to India, Burma, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, Russia, Japan, Cuba, Mexico and Canada. Over the course of his career, Cartier-Bresson published his photographs in prestigious magazines and photo books, and he held exhibitions across the world, including a major recent retrospective held at the MoMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta (2010-11).

About Beth Citron

Beth Citron is the Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art at the Rubin Museum in New York. Her exhibitions for the Rubin Museum have included “Genesis Breyer P-Orridge: Try to Altar Everything” (2016), “Francesco Clemente: Inspired by India” (2014), “Witness at a Crossroads: Photographer Marc Riboud in Asia” (2014), and the three part exhibition series “Modernist Art from India” (2011-13). She completed a Ph.D. in the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, and has taught in the Art History Department at New York University, from which she also earned a B.A. in Fine Arts.

About the Rubin Museum of Art

The Rubin Museum of Art is an arts oasis and cultural hub in New York City’s vibrant Chelsea neighborhood that inspires visitors to make powerful connections between contemporary life and the art and ideas of the Himalayas, India, and neighboring regions. With a diverse array of thought-provoking exhibitions and programs—including films, concerts, and on-stage conversations—the Rubin provides

immersive experiences that encourage personal discoveries and spark new ways of seeing the world. Emphasizing cross-cultural connections, the Rubin is a space to contemplate the big questions that extend across history and span human cultures.

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