

BRUCE DAVIDSON

“Few contemporary photographers give us their observations so unembellished – so free of apparent craft or artifice...The presence that fills these pictures seems the presence of the life that is described, scarcely changed by its transmutation into art” -John Szarkowski, former Director of Photography Department at the Museum of Modern Art, NY

Biography

- 1933 Born September 5, 1933, Oak Park, Illinois.
- 1943 Begins photographing at the age of ten. His mother gives him the freedom to roam the streets of Chicago with his Rolleiflex camera.
- 1946 Begins working after school for a professional photographer.
- 1949 Wins first prize in the Kodak National High School Competition.
- 1951 Attends the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- 1954 He is accepted at Yale University where he studies philosophy, painting, photography and graphic design.
- 1955 His college thesis, picturing the emotion of football players behind the scenes of the game, is published in LIFE magazine in the October issue. Military service takes him to Paris where he photographs Mme. Fauchet, the widow of an Impressionist painter. He shows these photographs to Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris.
- 1957 Returns to New York and begins working for LIFE magazine through a freelance program for young photographers. He is inspired by the Life photo-essays of W. Eugene Smith.
- 1958 Joins Magnum Photos as an associate member.
- 1959 Becomes a full member of Magnum. Completes Dwarf essay. Lives in a one-room skylight apartment in Greenwich Village and prints in a kitchen darkroom. Brooklyn Gang pictures published in Esquire.
- 1960 Queen magazine invites him to go to Britain for two months.
- 1961 Given first assignment to photograph high fashion for Vogue.
- 1962 Receives a Guggenheim Fellowship to document the Civil Rights Movement and begins to travel in the South. This project continues for four years.
- 1963 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, presents his work in a one-man show. Photographs the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge.
- 1964 Continues feature work for Vogue – Philip Johnson in his glass house, Andy Warhol in his loft, Mrs. Henry Ford in her backyard. Begins a photography workshop in his Greenwich Village studio.
- 1965 Photographs a “topless” restaurant in San Francisco for Esquire. Travels to Wales in the fall for a Holiday magazine assignment to photograph castles. Begins to stage-

- direct pictures of the mining country in South Wales.
- 1966 He is awarded the first grant for photography from the National Endowment for the Arts. He spends the next two years documenting one block in East Harlem using a view camera.
- 1967 Marries Emily.
- 1968 Buys a 16-millimeter movie camera and begins filming on East 100th Street. Takes a job with Michelangelo Antonioni making still pictures for *Zabriskie Point*.
- 1969 First daughter, Jenny, is born. Receives a grant from the American Film Institute to make a documentary, *Living Off the Land*, which wins the Critics Choice Award.
- 1970 Harvard University Press publishes *East 100th Street*, considered a modern classic and now a "much-coveted collector" item. The work is exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.
- 1971 Makes a short children's film called *Zoo Doctor* for CBS. Begins to replace magazine assignments with industrial and advertising photography.
- 1972 Serves as American vice-president of Magnum. He is given another grant by the American Film Institute to make a documentary on an American writer. He chooses Isaac Bashevis Singer, the Yiddish writer. *Isaac Singer's Nightmare* and *Mrs. Pupko's Beard* wins first prize in fiction at the American film festival the following year.
- 1974 Second daughter, Anna, is born.
- 1983 Serves again as American vice-president of Magnum.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 "Selections from New York: 1959-1992," Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 "On the Street: Bruce Davidson," Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2004 "Subway," Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 "Subway," Hermes Gallery, New York, NY, 2004
- 2003 Greg Kucera, Seattle, WA
- 2003 "Inside/Outside: Photographs from the artist's personal archive," Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 "Time of Change," International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- 1999 "Bruce Davidson: The Brooklyn Gang, 1959," International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- 1997 "Bruce Davidson: American Photography," Edwyn Houk Gallery, New York, NY
- 1988 *East 100th Street*, *The Cafeteria*, and *Subway* exhibited at the Smithsonian
- 1983 International Center of Photography
Musée Réattu, Arles, France
Galerie municipale du Château d'eau, Toulouse, France
- 1979 Retrospective exhibition at the International Center of Photography, New York, NY

- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Fnac, Montparnasse, Paris
Galerie Delpire, Le Nouvel Observateur, Paris
1978 International Center of Photography, New York, NY
1970 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
1965 Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1963 Museum of Modern Art, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2006 Among the Trees, Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Summit, NJ
2004 'Magnum's New Yorkers', Museum of the City of New York

Selected Awards

- 1998 Open Society Institute Individual Fellowship
1967 The first grant for photography from the National Endowment for the Arts
1962 Guggenheim Fellowship Award

Selected Publications

- 2005 England/Scotland 1960, Steidl
2003 Subway, St Ann's Press, (re-issue)
East 100th Street, St. Ann's Press, Los Angeles, (re-issue)
2002 Time of Change, Civil Rights Photographs, 1961-1965, St. Ann's Press, Los Angeles
1999 Portraits, Aperture, New York
1998 Brooklyn Gang, Twin Palms, New Mexico
1995 Central Park, Aperture, New York
1984 Subway, New York, Knopf
1970 Bruce Davidson Photographs, Simon & Schuster, New York
East 100th Street, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA

Selected Collections

- Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
International Center of Photography, New York, NY
Jeht Foundation, New York, NY
La Salle National Bank, Chicago, IL
Topan's "Masters of Photography", Japan

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Museum Ludwig Koln, Germany
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
The Smithsonian, Washington D.C.
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT