

Henri Cartier-Bresson A Decisive Collection

25.02 – 26.03.2015

In association with Leica



RUE MOUFFETARD, PARIS (1954)

Beetles+Huxley to open exhibition of photographs by one of the most influential photographers of all time. The exhibition will be held in association with legendary camera brand Leica, maker of Cartier-Bresson's camera of choice.

Born in 1908, Cartier-Bresson was one of the most important photographers of the twentieth century. Best known for using a lightweight Leica camera to develop the concept of the 'decisive moment', Cartier-Bresson transformed photo-journalism into an artform that balanced powerful subject matter with perfectly timed, elegant composition.

This promises to be one of the most significant photography exhibitions in London this spring and is centred around a private collection of prints, curated according to the particular tastes and interests of the collector. As a result, the exhibition contains a fascinating balance of images, some of which are well-known and some of which are virtually unseen. In particular, the collection boasts several unusual sets of photographs including: Paris (particularly during the 1968 student protests); the USSR during the early 1970s; and celebrity portraiture – an often overlooked element of Cartier-Bresson's oeuvre. The exhibition features portraits of sitters including Francis Bacon, Albert Camus, Coco Chanel, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Jean- Paul Sartre, Igor Stravinsky and other important cultural figures.

The collection also features a broad selection of Cartier-Bresson's most celebrated images, from *Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare*, 1932, to *Picnic on the Banks of the Marne*, Paris, 1938, to the charming *Rue Mouffetard*, Paris, 1954.

Henri Cartier-Bresson: A Decisive Collection will be presented in association with Leica, one of the world's most famous camera makers. Leica will be displaying a number of vintage cameras in the gallery, similar to ones used by Cartier-Bresson. The collaboration with Beetles+Huxley will also involve a variety of talks and events throughout the duration of the exhibition in celebration of the photographer's famous association with their brand.

About Leica

Leica Camera is an internationally operating, premium-segment manufacturer of cameras and sport optics products. The legendary status of the Leica brand is founded on a long tradition of excellence in the construction of lenses. And today, in combination with innovative technologies, Leica products continue to guarantee better pictures in all situations in the worlds of visualisation and perception. Leica Camera AG has its headquarters in Germany, and a second production site in Vila Nova de Famalicão, Portugal. The company operates branch offices in England, France, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, South Korea, Italy, Australia and the USA. New and innovative products have been the driving force behind the company's positive development in recent years.

Additional information can be found online at www.huxleyparlour.com