

Born in Paris in 1928 to Russian parents, Elliott Erwitt spent his childhood in Milan, then emigrated to the US, via France, with his family in 1939. As a teenager living in Hollywood, he developed an interest in photography and worked in a commercial darkroom before experimenting with photography at Los Angeles City College. In 1948, he moved to New York and exchanged janitorial work for film classes at the New School for Social Research.

Erwitt traveled in France and Italy in 1949 with his trusty Rolleiflex camera. In 1951, he was drafted for military service and undertook various photographic duties while serving in a unit of the Army Signal Corps in Germany and France.

While in New York, Erwitt met Edward Steichen, Robert Capa and Roy Stryker, the former head of the Farm Security Administration. Stryker initially hired Erwitt to work for the Standard Oil Company, where he was building up a photographic library for the company, and subsequently commissioned him to undertake a project documenting the city of Pittsburgh.

In 1953, Erwitt joined Magnum Photos and worked as a freelance photographer for Collier's, Look, LIFE, Holiday and other luminaries in that golden period for illustrated magazines.

In the late 1960s, Erwitt served as Magnum's president for three years. He then turned to film: in the 1970s, he produced several notable documentaries and in the 1980s eighteen comedy films for HBO. Erwitt became known for benevolent irony, and for a humanistic sensibility traditional to the spirit of Magnum.



Selected Solo Shows

2023

ELLIOTT ERWITT: A RETROSPECTIVE, Polka Galerie

Elliott Erwitt: An Anthology, Magnum Photos

2021

Elliott Erwitt. Paris, Ostlicht. Gallery for Photography

2019

Family, MUDEC

2018

Elliott Erwitt, PDNB Gallery

Elliott Erwitt, Huxley-Parlour

2017

Personae, Musei San Domenico

2016

Elliott Erwitt: Kolor, Edwynn Houk Gallery

2015

Elliott Erwitt: Regarding Women, Jackson Fine Art

Elliot Erwitt, PDNB Gallery

2008



Elliott Erwitt: Unseen, HackelBury Fine Art

Selected Group Shows

2023

On View | Group Exhibition, Robert Koch Gallery

Seen Not Heard: Photographs of Children 1865–2023, Atlas Gallery

May 6 Photography After Auction Sale, Robert Berman Gallery

OSTLICHT SELECTION, Ostlicht. Gallery for Photography

Walk of Fame, CAMERA WORK

Collectors' Exchange I, SOL LDN

2022

Art + Books, HackelBury Fine Art

The Gift of Photography, PDNB Gallery

The Curious and Creative Eye – The Visual Language of Humor, Holden Luntz Gallery

The Cuban Collection, Etherton Gallery

PLACES OF LONGING, Ostlicht. Gallery for Photography

From a Private Collection, HackelBury Fine Art

Best in Show, The Photographers' Gallery | Print Sales

Over Coffee, Gowen Contemporary

2021



Movies Made America, Holden Luntz Gallery

FEAST, Atlas Gallery

Masterworks, CAMERA WORK

New Work by Gallery Artist, PDNB Gallery

Hooray for Hollywood, Staley-Wise Gallery

For the Record: Documentary Photographs from the Etherton Gallery Archive & Danny Lyon: Thirty Photographs, 1962-1980, Etherton Gallery

Pictures to fall in love with!, Ira Stehmann Fine Art

2020

New York | London | Paris, Holden Luntz Gallery

70 YEARS OF CORRESPONDENCES: MAGNUM PHOTOS AND PICTO 1950-2020, Richard Taittinger Gallery

Summer Show, Edwynn Houk Gallery

Print Sales Summer Salon, The Photographers' Gallery | Print Sales

Autour d'un café (Over coffee), Gowen Contemporary

PHOTO BASEL 2020 - Virtual Edition, Atlas Gallery

Home Works, Atlas Gallery

Art under 2000\$: From Modern to Contemporary Art, Plazzart (OLD ACCOUNT - ARCHIVED)

Something to make you smile!, Atlas Gallery

ATLAS GALLERY at PARIS PHOTO NEW YORK, Atlas Gallery



Signs of the Times, PDNB Gallery

FRAMED, Atlas Gallery

2019

Deck the Walls, Catherine Couturier Gallery

A Window to Life; Looking at the Humanists, Holden Luntz Gallery

Where Have All the Flowers Gone: Images of War, PDNB Gallery

Wine Country, Scott Nichols Gallery

2018

BRESSON | BRASSAI | BOUBAT, Holden Luntz Gallery

Planes, Trains & Automobiles, The Photographers' Gallery | Print Sales

Recollections of Summer, PDNB Gallery

HackelBury: Twenty, HackelBury Fine Art

From the Archive: Masters of 20th Century American Photography, Etherton Gallery

2017

PHOTOFEST, Atlas Gallery

Stampede: Animals in Art, Denver Art Museum

2016

The Kennedys, CAMERA WORK

PLATINUM – Master prints by master printers, Atlas Gallery



Photography: Technology + Art, , curated by Emily Ackerman, Sydney Mishkin

Gallery

Photography: Technology + Art, curated by Emily Ackerman, Sydney Mishkin Gallery

2015

Summer Show: Landscapes, The Photographers' Gallery | Print Sales

The Road, Robert Koch Gallery

The Making Of - Art News - Rai Arte, Palazzo Fibbioni

Gianni Berengo Gardin - Elliott Erwitt. Un'amicizia ai sali d'argento, Auditorium Expo

Bibliography

- 1972 Photographs and Anti-Photographs
- 1972 Observations on American Architecture
- 1974 Elliott Erwitt: The Private Experience. (In the series "Masters of Contemporary Photography", text by Sean Callahan.) Los Angeles: Petersen. Sean Callahan describes and to some extent explains Erwitt's work.
- 1974 Son of Bitch, Photographs of dogs.
- 1978 Recent Developments
- 1988 Personal Exposures
- 1991 On the Beach
- 1992 To The Dogs



1993 - The Angel Tree

1994 - Between the Sexes

1997 - 100+1 Elliott Erwitt

1998 - Dog Dogs A collection of black and white photographs of dogs Erwitt was intrigued by throughout his world travels.

1999 - Museum Watching

2001 - Snaps. London & New York: Phaidon. A large anthology (over 500 pages) of Erwitt's work.

2002 - EE 60/60

2002 - Elliott Erwitt's Handbook

2005 - Woof'

2009 - Elliott Erwitt's Rome: teNeues Publishing

2009 Elliott Erwitt's New York'

2010 - The Art of Andre S. Solidor aka Elliott Erwitt

2010 - Elliott Erwitt Personal Best

2011 - Elliott Erwitt, Sequentially Yours

2012 - Elliott Erwitt XXL - Special and Collectors Edition

2013 - Elliott Erwitt's Kolor. Kempen, Germany: teNeues

2017 - Pittsburgh 1950. London: Gost. With an essay by Vaughn Wallace. Photographs made in Pittsburgh for Pittsburgh Photographic Library.