

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON: THE EARLY WORK

DATES September 10 - November 29, 1987

ORGANIZATION Peter Galassi, Curator, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art.

The exhibition has been made possible by grants from Champagne Taittinger, as part of its program in support of the arts, and from the International Herald Tribune, in celebration of its 100th anniversary.

CONTENT The French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson (b. 1908) studied painting in the mid-twenties and in 1929 began to experiment with photography. In 1932 he acquired a Leica, a small, versatile camera that allowed him to respond to the most ephemeral action. Over the next three years, Cartier-Bresson created one of the most original and influential bodies of work in the history of photography. Guided by the rebellious spirit of Surrealism, he invented a style remarkable for its spontaneity, its graphic boldness, and its psychological intensity. This early work is very different from the much broader body of work that Cartier-Bresson created as a photojournalist in the decades after World War II.

This exhibition of eighty-seven black-and-white photographs is the first to focus exclusively on Cartier-Bresson's early work. The famous pictures of the period are joined by others that are unfamiliar or unknown, including several that had not been printed before. Four early paintings and a collage, also unknown to the American public, are included.

PUBLICATION Henri Cartier-Bresson: The Early Work by Peter Galassi. 4 color and 110 black-and-white illustrations. 152 pages. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Clothbound, distributed by New York Graphic Society Books/Little, Brown and Company, Boston, \$35.00; paperbound, available in the Museum Store, \$17.50.

TRAVEL After its New York showing, the exhibition travels to The Detroit Institute of Arts (December 15, 1987 - February 7, 1988); the Art Institute of Chicago (March - April 1988); the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego (May 10 - June 26, 1988); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (December 17, 1988 - February 26, 1989); and The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (March 31 - May 28, 1989).

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750