

A journey of a moment in time, exhibition

Raghu Rai, laureate of the first edition of the
Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein

From November 27, 2019 to January 5, 2020

Pavillon Comtesse de Caen, Palais de l'Institut de France

Press Kit
Paris, October 15th, 2019



Diving into Ugrasen Baoli, Delhi, 1971

Agence Plan Bey

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The Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein

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The Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein was created in 2019 by the Académie des beaux-arts with the support of the Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum in tribute to the work of William Klein, photographer, painter, visual artist, graphic designer, director of documentary, advertising and fiction films.

As a consecration award, this prize is intended to reward a photographer for his/her entire career and commitment to photography. It rewards one photographer of all nationalities and ages. **Endowed with the sum of 120,000 euros**, it is awarded every two years, alternating with the Photography Prize Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière.

The jury of the 2019 edition

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- Laurent Petitgirard, Perpetual Secretary of the Académie des beaux-arts, co-chair
 - Zhong Weixing, founder of the Chengdu Contemporary image museum, co-chair
 - William Klein, Honorary Member
 - Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Bruno Barbey, Jean Gaumy, Sebastião Salgado, members of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts
 - Jean-Luc Monterosso, director of the Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum
 - Bernard Perrine, correspondent of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts
 - Alessandra Mauro, curator
 - Alberto Anaut, president of *PhotoEspaña* and director of *La Fábrica*.

Exhibition Curators

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- Jean-Luc Monterosso, correspondent of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts
 - Bernard Perrine, correspondent of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

Raghu Rai

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Crédit photo : Raghu Rai archives

Raghu Rai (1942) started photography by chance in 1965. In 1966 he began to work for *The Statesman* as their chief photographer. In 1969 he completed a Thomson fellowship in England and worked for *The Times* for four weeks. After three half pages of his picture essays were published week after week, he was offered a job at *The Times* by Norman Hall. He returned to India to continue his unfinished creative explorations in the lanes and by lanes of his country.

In 1972, impressed with Rai's exhibition at Gallery Delpire, Paris, Henri-Cartier Bresson nominated him to Magnum photos. Also in 1972, Rai was awarded a *Padma Shree*, for his work on the Bangladesh War, a first for any photographer by the Indian Government. He could only begin his association with Magnum Photos in 1977, which continues presently. Rai was picture editor for *India Today* from 1982 to 1991. His work on special issues, their design and his trailblazing photo essays on social, political and cultural themes such as Masters of *Indian Classical Music*, *Satyajit Ray*, and *Mother Teresa* touched the hearts of many people.

In 1992 Rai was awarded "Photographer of the Year" in America for his story *Human Management of Wildlife in India* for National Geographic. In 2009 he was conferred *Officer des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Government. He received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the Indian Government in 2016. In 2018 he was awarded a *Master of Photojournalism* by the Lucie Foundation.

His photo essays have appeared in *Time*, *Life*, *Natianol Geographic*, *Le Figaro*, *Le Monde*, *Die Welt*, *The New York Times*, *The Sunday Times London*, *Newsweek*, *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Marie Claire*, *The Independent*, and *The New Yorker*. He has been an adjudicator for the *World Press Photo Contest* and UNESCO's *International Photo Contest* many times.

Under special assignment from *Greenpeace International*, his coverage of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy was compiled into a book with three sets of exhibitions that travelled throughout the world. It helped raise awareness and brought relief for many victims. In 2002 Rai participated in a special exhibition and picture book on India and Mexico with Sebastião Salgado and Graciela Iturbide.

His photographic reports have been published in many magazines and newspapers around the world. In 2012, he created the Raghu Rai Center for Photography, a place for sharing and teaching photography to young generations.

Raghu Rai currently lives in New Delhi and works on his 57th book.

Raghu Rai by himself

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In course of my work, I find that I have been moving to focus on the changing equations of our times, trying to record the deeper universal human responses to realities, to energy, to the spirit.

I believe that the photographer's job is to cut a frame-sized slice out of the world around him, so faithfully and honestly that if he were to put it back again, life and the world would begin to move without a stumble. My goal now is not so much about "good photography"; it is to go beyond acquired styles and address life itself.

In India as in the rest of the world we live in an age of millions of ephemeral images. Thankfully, good photograph can communicate deeper levels of human experience ; it can change one's view of the world and enhance the possibilities of another vision and awakening. (...)

We capture reality, the truth - not only its physical aspect, but, the inner vibrations of that space or person. Vibrations come in gentle whispers, only in moments when your mind is still and there is silence in you. What you reflect through your image has captured the physical reality with its inner aura.

They say a good photograph is worth a thousand words. But thousand words can be a lot of noise. How about some silence – a moment in space which is non-negotiable. Stories have been told and retold in many different ways through words and photographs, but silence happens rarely. (...)

Many of the precious treasures of our civilization - of human relationships, values and simple interactions of daily life are going through major changes. This is precisely what I am talking about, to bring man closer - face to face with human reality. (...)

INDIA is, for me, the whole world, an ocean of life-churning day in day out! It's never the same again... at the same spot... (...) But India keeps alive the inner spirit of her own civilization with all its contradictions. (...)

I stand amid this human deluge trying to untangle the merging and emerging of various colours, the myriad hues of every emotion, set in motion by each charge and recharge. It's an exploration into the unknown and unseen. It energizes and enriches itself... The restless and restful fluid their home in me... The inadequate wishes I was four or five of me, it's life's longing for itself that makes me go on... The emergence of the unseen and revelation of the unknown leaves me amazed! The experience becomes a DARSHAN.

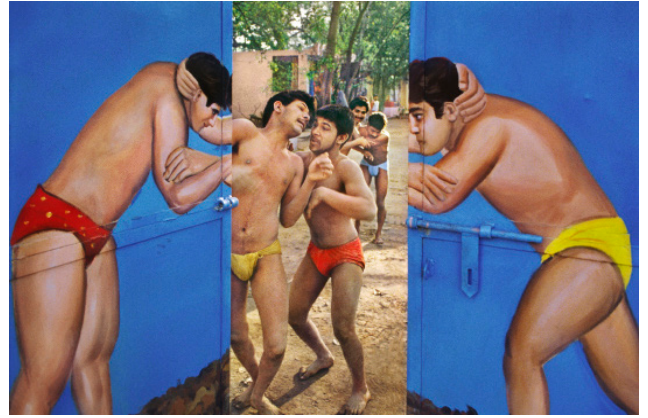
What a country of mine!

Raghu Rai

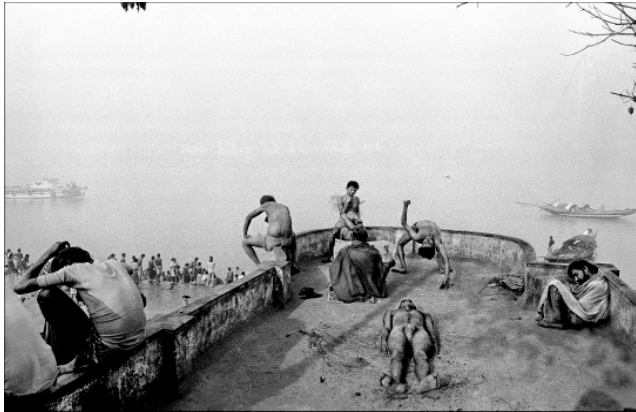
Press Images



1. *Traffic at Chanri Bazar, Delhi, 1965*



2. *Wrestlers in Ankhara, Delhi, 1979*



3. *Morning Activity, Mullick Ghat, Kolkata, 1990*



4. *Mother Teresa in prayer, Kolkata, 1995*



5. *A pilgrim, Varanasi, 2008*

Comtesse de Caen Pavillon (27, quai de Conti, VI^e arrondissement)

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Vue du projet de rénovation, agence Wilmotte et associés

Located within the Palais de l'Institut de France, facing the Pont des Arts and assigned to the Académie des beaux-arts since June 24, 1872 following the bequest of the Comtesse de Caen, this space traditionally hosts exhibitions of artists who have won Academies awards.

This exhibition inaugurates the reopening of this area, whose renovation was entrusted to the academician Jean-Michel Wilmotte, a member of the architecture section of the Academy, who generously offered his project.

The Académie des beaux-arts

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The Académie des beaux-arts is one of the five academies composing the Institut de France. **It encourages artistic creation in every means of expression** with the organisation of competitions, the awarding of prizes, the financing of artists' residencies and the granting of subsidies, and it watches over the defence of French cultural heritage. **A consultative body for the public authorities**, it also considers artistic issues. To carry out these missions, the Academy of Fine Arts **manages its heritage consisting of gifts and legacies, but also important cultural foundations** such as the Fondation Paul Marmottan Monet (Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris and Bibliothèque Marmottan in Boulogne-Billancourt), the Fondation Claude Monet in Giverny, the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, the Fondation Jean et Simone Lurçat in Paris and the Villa des Pinsons in Chars. Today the Academy comprises statutorily 63 members in 9 artistic sections.

Practical Information

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Partner Program

The exhibition is part of the 8th edition of the Photo Saint-Germain festival from November 6 to 23, 2019.

www.photosaintgermain.com

Photo*Saint*Germain

Opening hours and dates

Palais de l'Institut de France, 27 quai de Conti, Paris VI^e

From November 27, 2019 to January 5, 2020

Exhibition open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm - Free admission

Académie des beaux-arts

Hermine Videau, Responsable du service de la communication et des prix /

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