



Annie Leibovitz, laureate of the second edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award – William Klein



© Annie Leibovitz

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 and pays tribute to the work of William Klein, a photographer, painter, visual artist, graphic designer and director of documentary, advertising and fiction films.

A lifetime achievement award, the prize honors a single photographer of any nationality for their body of work and long-term contribution to the field of photography. **The laureate is awarded the sum of 120,000 euros.** The Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award – William Klein **is held every two years**, alternating with the Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière Photography Prize, which recognizes confirmed photographers working or living in France and with a specific project in mind.

The award will be presented to Annie Leibovitz at a ceremony to be held in the Palais de l'Institut de France on October 27, 2021. An exhibition of her work will be held from October 27 to November 28 at the Académie des beaux-arts, in the Pavillon Comtesse de Caen (Palais de l'Institut de France).

One of the world's most influential photographers, Annie Leibovitz has helped to define the canon of contemporary portraiture throughout her career – portraits of actors, directors, writers, musicians, athletes, and political and business figures, as well as fashion photographs. In addition to her iconic portraits, Annie Leibovitz is one of the greatest chroniclers of our times, having captured such images as Richard Nixon's helicopter leaving the White House in 1972, a pensive President Barack Obama on the last day of his presidency or Malala Yousafzai in her classroom in Birmingham, England.

Her work also encompasses a wide range of subjects and intensely personal photographs, and includes her series *Pilgrimage*, of banal objects and places linked to poets, artists and thinkers (Virginia Woolf's writing desk, Charles Darwin's bird specimens or Henry David Thoreau's bed at Walden Pond); and *Women*, an important compilation of images showcasing the strength of hundreds of women from all walks of life.

The jury members for the 2021 edition

- 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, Jean Gaumy and 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 and Sylvie Hugues, corresponding members in the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts
- Olga Sviblova, founding director of Moscow's Multimedia Art Museum
- Fariba Farshad, curator, pioneer of creative education and cofounder of Candlestar and Photo London

Annie Leibovitz

Born in 1949 in Waterbury (Connecticut, United States), Annie Leibovitz began her career as a photojournalist for *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1970, while she was still a student at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her pictures have appeared regularly on magazine covers ever since.

Leibovitz's first major assignment was for a cover story on John Lennon. She became *Rolling Stone*'s chief photographer in 1973, and by the time she left the magazine ten years later, she had been established as an astute documentarian of the social landscape, having shot 142 covers and published photo essays on scores of stories, including her memorable accounts of the resignation of Richard Nixon and of the 1975 Rolling Stones tour. In 1983, she joined the staff of the revived *Vanity Fair*, and she began collaborating regularly for *Vogue* in the late 1980s. In addition to her editorial work, she has created several influential advertising campaigns, including her award-winning portraits for American Express and the Gap. She has also collaborated with many arts organizations. Leibovitz has a special interest in dance, and in 1990 she documented the creation of the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris.

Several collections of Leibovitz's work have been published. They include *Annie Leibovitz: Photographs* (1983); *Annie Leibovitz: Photographs 1970–1990* (1991); *Olympic Portraits* (1996); *Women* (1999), in collaboration with Susan Sontag; *American Music* (2003); *A Photographer's Life, 1990–2005* (2006); *Annie Leibovitz at Work* (2008, revised edition 2018), a first-person commentary on her career; *Pilgrimage* (2011); an oversized, limited collector's edition of her photographs published by Taschen (2014); *Annie Leibovitz: Portraits, 2005–2016* (2017); and *Annie Leibovitz: The Early Years, 1970–1983* (2018). Her upcoming book *Wonderland* will be published by Phaidon in October 2021.

Exhibitions of Leibovitz's work have appeared at museums and galleries all over the world, including the National Portrait Gallery and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the International Center of Photography in New York, the Brooklyn Museum, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, the National Portrait Gallery in London, the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, and the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow.

Leibovitz is the recipient of many honors. In 2006, she was made a Commandeur in the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. The previous year, in a compilation of the top 40 magazine covers of the past four decades by the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME), she held the top two spots: Number 1 for the photograph of John Lennon and Yoko Ono taken for *Rolling Stone* the day Lennon was shot, and Number 2 for the pregnant Demi Moore in *Vanity Fair*. In 2009, she received the International Center of Photography's Lifetime Achievement Award, ASME's first Creative Excellence Award, and the Centenary Medal of the Royal Photographic Society in London. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art Award for Distinguished Women in the Arts and the Wexner Prize. In 2013, she received the Prince of Asturias Award for Communication and Humanities. She was the inaugural recipient of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Contemporary Vision Award in 2015. In 2018, she received the Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts from the National Museum of Women in the Arts and an honorary doctorate from the Rhode Island School of Design. Leibovitz has been designated a Living Legend by the Library of Congress.

She lives in New York with her three children, Sarah, Susan, and Samuelle.

The Académie des beaux-arts

The Académie des beaux-arts, as it has been known since 1803, is one of five academies that make up the Institut de France, which cover the French language, sciences, humanities, philosophy and political science. It is the successor to the separate academies for art, music and architecture: the Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture (1648), the Académie de Musique (1669) and the Académie Royale d'Architecture (1671). The role of the Académie des Beaux-Arts is to defend and highlight France's artistic heritage and promote its growth in all its forms of expression. In order to fulfill its mission, the Académie des Beaux-Arts provides funding in France and abroad in various formats: awarding prizes to emerging or established artists, organizing competitions, financing artists' residences, and supporting projects, events and associations of an artistic nature. It also manages assets consisting of donations and legacies and administers a large museum heritage, including the Marmottan Monet Museum (Paris) and Marmottan Library (Boulogne-Billancourt), the Claude Monet Foundation (Giverny), the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild (Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat) the Fondation Jean et Simone Lurçat (Paris) and the Villa des Pinsons (Chars). It maintains an active policy of partnerships with a broad network of cultural institutions and patrons. Today the Académie des beaux-arts comprises 63 members in 9 artistic sections.

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