

**LES DOUCHES
LA GALERIE**

PRESS KIT

SABINE WEISS'S WORLD

MAY 18 – JULY 30, 2016

From Wednesday to Saturday, 2-7 pm and by appointment

Opening on May, 17, 6-9 pm



©Sabine Weiss / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

We are pleased to invite you to our very first solo exhibit dedicated to Sabine Weiss. It would indeed be presumptuous of us to claim to be presenting an exhaustive portrait of her work, which has continued to grow and expand since 1942. She takes on all genres without privileging any.

Furthermore, we've taken pains to focus on lesser-known facets of her personality. We've even taken a guilty pleasure in going off the beaten path to places you'd hardly expect. Of course children are one of her favorite subjects to photograph... but there are many more. She never places more importance on the anecdotal than on sensations themselves, "ones that capture the expression of feelings". She does not recoil at the label "humanist photographer", but she does believe that it is too narrow for her work. All the more so because the tradition of humanist photography has had no influence whatsoever on her outlook. The only thing that has sparked her interest and nourished her throughout the years is painting. We're sure you'll agree that this unclassifiable and fiercely independent woman, Sabine Weiss, is a fascinating subject for our exhibit.

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Sabine Weiss is not a photographer.

In any case, Sabine Weiss is not a photographer whom we can easily class among French humanist photographers and then wash our hands, as if everything were said and done. And this is in no way a criticism of said school of photography. It's merely an observation, a statement of affairs, a report. Even when many of her Parisian photographs seem to belong wholeheartedly to that movement. And that is precisely the key: the mistake is seeing Sabine Weiss as a photographer of Paris. Or exclusively so. Weiss is never more herself than when she leaves France. Never more herself than when she lands in New York, Sicily, Portugal, Egypt. All right, in France she can be considered a photographer. But once we've crossed the national borders by even a few inches, it's a completely different story...

But then, if Sabine Weiss is not a photographer, what is she? Who is she?

Far from her roots, she becomes a director, a maker of films. In fact, I'd much prefer the term maker because her photos are precisely not directed or set up. They are not posed. Not even freeze frames. No, her photos are the beginning of a story. Or the middle. Or the end. And they are often a whole film. You enter one of her photographs as you would enter a cinema. You'll have to buy a ticket to see her photos. In fact, the best way to appreciate them is with others, in a dark room, feeling your neighbours reacting and vibrating at the sight of each of these moments that are at once dense and dramatic.

The first thing that comes to mind when watching the cinema of Sabine Weiss is Italian neo-realism: the Rossellini of Rome, Open City and de Sica's The Bicycle Thief. But after some consideration, I would lean more towards Jules Dassin, who was indeed the first to place his camera on the streets of New York in The Naked City. But for the quality of her black and white works, I most definitely associate Weiss's New York photos with that other film of Dassin's, namely Night and the City. Feel the intensity! And the light! Drama in its purest form. It's no surprise that Weiss also shot her pictures in New York in the thick of the 1950s.

Yes, I firmly believe that this is how we ought to reread Sabine Weiss's photographs now, as great moments of cinema. And in that regard, she is entirely alone in the history of French photography. Or for that matter in the history of photography, full stop. Her place is utterly unique.

Yes, Sabine Weiss is a great photographer.

Olivier Beer
Scriptwriter

Sabine Weiss's world

May 18 – July 30, 2016

Opening on May, 17, 6-9 pm

Les Douches la Galerie

5 rue Legouv  - 75010 Paris

From Wednesday to Saturday, 2-7 pm and by appointment

Free admission

Sabine Weiss

Exhibition produced by the Jeu de Paume June 18 – October 30

Ch teau de Tours

25 avenue Andr  Malraux – 37000 Tours

From Tuesday to Sunday, 2 – 6

Full rate: 3   / Reduced: 1,50  

SABINE WEISS

SELECTION OF WORKS

Les lavandières, Bretagne, 1954

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



Une rue à Naples, 1955

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 20 x 24 inches



Marché aux Pucés, Paris, 1952

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



Montmartre, Paris, 1952

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



Courses à Auteuil, Paris, 1952

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



Sans titre, 1946

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



2CV sous la pluie, Paris, 1957

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 16 x 20 inches



L'audace, 1950

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



Naples, 1955

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



New York, 1955

Vintage gelatin-silver print, printed and signed by the artist
Print size: 9 x 11 inches



Lower East Side, New York, 1955

Vintage gelatin-silver print, printed and signed by the artist
Print size: 8 x 11 inches



New York, 1955

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 20 x 24 inches



New York, 1955

Modern gelatin-silver print, signed by the artist
Print size: 12 x 16 inches



SABINE WEISS

BIOGRAPHY

- 1924 Sabine Weiss born Weber, was born the 23rd July in Saint-Gingolph, Switzerland
- 1936 When she was twelve she bought her first camera with the savings of her pocket money
- 1942 Starts studying photography at the renamed Atelier Boissonnas in Geneva
- 1945 She graduated and opens her own studio at Geneva
- 1946 Moves to Paris and becomes assistant of fashion photographer Willy Maywald until 1950
- 1950 She married the American artist Hugh Weiss. Together they were going to be among the friends of Cocteau, Utrillo and Rouault. Also they become close friends with Jacques-Henri Lartigue. She had several commissioned work and photographed many artists, musicians and writers
- 1952 At *Vogue Magazine* Robert Doisneau discover her pictures and offers her to join the Agence Rapho where he already works. The same year she signed for a nine years contract with *Vogue* as a fashion and documentary photographer. Works as a free lance photographer for many American and Europeans magazines such as *Match, Life, Time, Newsweek, Town And Country, Fortune, Holiday, European Travel And Life, Esquire,*
- 1954 Exhibitions in USA at the Art Institute of Chicago, Walker Art Center of Minneapolis, Bard College, Limelight Gallery of New York, and at the Nebraska Art Center of Lincoln
- 1955 Edward Steichen choose three of her pictures for the milestone exhibition of photography « The Family of Man », first presented at the MoMA and the become a traveling exhibition
- 1961 She starts to survey the world sharing her time between the commissioned work and her personal work
- 1987 Recognized with the order of *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*
- 1999 Recognized with the order of *Officier des Arts et des Lettres*
- 2010 Recognized with the order of *Ordre national du Mérite*

SABINE WEISS

EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2016 *The Humanist Vision*, Holden Luntz Gallery, Floride
Ils jouent... je m'en amuse, Biennale internationale de l'image, Nancy
Jeu de Paume, Château de Tours, Tours
Sabine Weiss's world, Les Douches la Galerie, Paris
- 2015 Paris Photo, Les Douches la Galerie Booth, Paris
Les hommes et leurs croyances, 12^{ème} festival photographique de Saint Benoit, Vienne
En passant, Mois de la Photo en Nièvre, Palais Ducale, Nevers
En passant, 47^{ème} salon d'Art Photographique à Sarlat
Médiathèque François Mitterrand, Argentan
En passant, Festival de la photographie à Dax
La Nuit des images, Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne
L'âme révélée, Festival photographique de Moncoutant
New York, Les Douches la Galerie, Paris
Regards de femmes, Galerie HEGOA, Paris
- 2014 *Chère Sabine*, Salon de la Photo, Paris
Portraits d'artistes, Galerie Patrick Cramer, Genève
Photobastei, Zurich
Portugal, 1954, Festival de la Photo de mer, Vannes
L'amour pour la vie, Espace Citroën Experience Center, Creative Galerie, Sao Paulo
L'amour pour la vie, Centro Cultural Correios, Rio de Janeiro
- 2013 *Des Enfants*, Fondation Carzou, Manosque
L'âme révélée, La Teinturerie, Trans'Arts Photo, Cogolin
Sabine Weiss, Photographies, Médiathèque Valais, Martigny
- 2012 *Le Geste*, Galerie Guillaume, Paris
Tajiri, Museum Het Valkhof, Hollande
- 2011 *Toujours en mouvement !*, Galerie Guillaume, Paris
Des Enfants, Galerie Saint Ravy, Montpellier
Photographies des années 50, Musée Aachen, Aix-la-Chapelle
Reflets, Galerie la Nivelles, Saint Jean de Luz
- 2010 *Sabine Weiss*, Berck, France
Intimes Convictions, Joinville, France
Rétrospective fond culturel Katherina, Moscou
- 2009 *Les Enfants*, Musée des Arts, Thonon
Intimes Convictions, Galerie Le Garage, Orléans
Photos 1949-2009, Galerie Quintessence, Utrecht
- 2008 *Un demi-siècle de photographies*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
L'année 1986 dans le département, Musée MAC/VAL, Vitry
Mode au Printemps années 50, Espace Van Gogh, Arles
Portraits d'artistes, Galerie Hutter, Bâle
- 2007 Sabine Weiss, Heerlern, Espace ABP, Hollande

- L'Inde*, Palais de la Culture, Puteaux
- 2006 Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris
Les années 50, Galerie Caméra Obscura, Paris
Portraits d'artistes, Zamora, Espagne
Birmanie, Galerie Alternance, Arras
- 2005 Galerie Assolibri, Florence, Italie
Les Hommes et leurs croyances, Montauban
- 2004 *Chroniques Nomades*, Rétrospectives, Honfleur
- 2003 *Portraits d'artistes*, Espace 1789, Saint Ouen
Des Enfants, Festival Focal, Coudekerque Branche, France
- 2002 *Les années 50*, Klotz-Simon Gallery, New York
Portraits d'artistes, Galerie Solstices, Lille
- 2001 Rétrospective – Villa Aurélienne, Fréjus, France
- 2000 *Poussettes, charrettes et roulettes*, Maison de la Photographie, Bièvres
Katomah, New York, USA
Portraits d'artistes, Galerie Lefort Openo, Paris
- 1998 *Les Hommes et leurs croyances*, Maison Descartes, Amsterdam
En passant, Cherbourg, France
- 1997 Kizoku, Tokyo, Japon
- 1996 *Lumière et Tendresse*, Maison Européenne de la photographie, Paris
Regard intime, Montalcino, Italie
- 1995 *Île de la Réunion*, Nice, France
La Bulgarie, Maison des Photographes, Plovdiv, Bulgarie
Les Femmes, Musée Omar Rayo, Roldanillo, Colombie
- 1994 *La Bulgarie*, Musée Cyrille et Méthode, Sofia, Bulgarie
Lycée François Villon, Paris, France
- 1993 Bibliothèque Publique, Port Washington, New York
Nous, Galerie du Centre, Paris
Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York
- 1992 Festival de l'Image, Le Mans, France
- 1989 Vision Gallery, San Francisco, California
Fondation Nationale de la Photographie, Lyon
- 1987 Musée d'Art Contemporain, Dunkerque, France
Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, Suisse
- 1985 *Sabine Weiss*, Amsterdam, Pays-Bas
Les Enfants, Galeries Fnac, France et Belgique
- 1984 Festival d'Avoriaz, Avoriaz, France
Galerie Contretype, Bruxelles, Belgique
- 1982 Catskill Center, New York, USA
Fondation Nationale de la Photographie, Lyon
- 1981 Musée Nicéphore Niepce, Châlon sur Saône, France
Musée de la Photographie, Oslo, Norvège
- 1980 Galerie Viviane Esders, Paris, France
Les Enfants, Galeries Fnac, France et Belgique
- 1978 Exposition itinérante organisée par l'ACMAE

- Centre Culturel, Chatillon, France
- 1955 *Family of Man*, MoMa, New York, USA
- 1954 Limelight Gallery, New York, USA
Nebraska Art Center, Lincoln, USA
Bard College, New York, USA
The Walker Art Institute, Minneapolis, USA
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA

COLLECTIONS (SELECTION)

- Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France
- Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, Paris, France
- Musée National d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou
- Fondation Nationale des Arts Plastiques, Paris, France
- Musée Carnavalet, Paris, France
- Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Châlons-sur-Saône, France
- Photothèque des Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles, France
- Galerie du Château d'Eau, Toulouse, France
- The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
- Museum Folkwang, Essen, Allemagne
- Musée d'Art Moderne, San Francisco, Californie, USA
- Lehigh University Art Gallery, Pittsburg, USA
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
- Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japon
- Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, Suisse
- Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
- LAC, Saint Pierre de la Réunion
- Kunsthaus, Zurich, Suisse
- Reader's Digest Collection
- Musée « The Family of Man » de Steichen, Luxembourg
- « la collection Transphotographique » Pozman