

# FRANK HORVAT

## *L'Imprévisible*

FROM SEPTEMBER 9 TO OCTOBER 29, 2022

**OPENING ON SEPTEMBER 8TH FROM 6PM TO 9PM**



Frank Horvat, *Woman and shadow*, New York, USA, for Harper's Bazaar, 1960

© Frank Horvat Studio / Courtesy les Douches la Galerie, Paris

We present for the first time at the gallery the Frank Horvat's work. An elusive man who has always liked to go where he was not expected. Given the richness of his work, we have chosen to focus on his fashion photographs. By getting the models out on the street, Frank Horvat created a sensation by breaking the codes of the age. Fashion is now in dialogue with life.

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## PRESS RELEASE

In the 1950s and 60s – and even afterwards as well – being a ‘fashion’ photographer necessarily meant working in a studio, respecting the numerous codes that helped to ‘show off’ clothing, by repeating poses and framing certain details, among other things. Frank Horvat, who loved capturing the animated streets of Paris, shaping them, summarising them in an instant, was the first photographer to bring models out onto the street, to fit them back into the flow of life, and ultimately to have fun with the contrast between the refinement of some of the fashion designers’ outfits and bridal gowns and the clothes worn by the labourers of les Halles or by bistrot regulars. While revolutionising approaches to fashion, Horvat nevertheless remained faithful to his endlessly benevolent curiosity for the essentially human and to a way of practising photography with presence and elegance in free and ultimately joyful snapshots. All of a sudden, fashion was no longer stiff and unnatural; it was truly in dialogue with life.

Born in Italy in 1928 into a Jewish family of doctors of central European origin, Frank Horvat lived by turns in Switzerland, Italy, Pakistan, India, England and France, where he settled in the late 1950s, while regularly visiting the United States and travelling often in Europe, North and South America and Asia. He took his first photographs in Italy with a humanist angle and was definitively marked by Henri Cartier-Bresson whom he met in Paris and who convinced him to use a Leica and to head for India.

Beginning in the mid-sixties, when press photography was (already) in crisis, he tried his hand at video and cinema, with mixed results. Nevertheless, the foundation for his eventual journey was laid there: using photography to investigate nature, the issues surrounding images, the need to search and to take risks at all costs. That is how the traveller ended up guiding the photographer with references he went back to over and over; and how he endlessly examined colour and its possibilities; how he became one of the first photographers to take advantage of the possibilities that digital photography offered, in illustrating Ovid’s Metamorphoses and inventing his stunning Bestiaire. In the 1990s, no less – once again a forerunner.

In the mid-eighties, when he began suffering from an eye disease, he turned toward writing and conducted interviews with photographers he admired (including Édouard Boubat, Robert Doisneau, Mario Giacomelli, Josef Koudelka, Don McCullin, Sarah Moon, Helmut Newton, Marc Riboud, Jeanloup Sieff and Joel-Peter Witkin). He prepared a new edition of the book, with further conversations, entitled Entre vues [Inter Views].

Resistant to labels, other than that of photographer, he was curious throughout his life about the nature, limits and possibilities of photography. A testament to this curiosity is his own personal collection, which he began assembling over forty years ago, through exchanges with his fellow photographers and which offers us, across more than five hundred prints, a careful selection of what he considered the best works of a great number of renowned photographers.

Beneath the gaze of the most Parisian of Italians, ‘fashion’ photography is no longer what comes to mind. We are simply drawn to follow the gaze of a photographer who knows how to take advantage of the forms invented by others, bodies in space, contrasts of light to compose rectangles of loose, harmonious rhythms. Behind his photography we also sense the pleasure he experienced, always delighting in the surprises held in store for him by the tool of the trade he chose and that he mastered well beyond its established rules. As his own favourite definition states: ‘A good photograph is one that cannot be retaken. A photo must be unpredictable and everything in it must be necessary.’

**Christian Caujolle**

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**Les Douches la Galerie**

5, rue Legouvé 75010 Paris

01 78 94 03 00 | [lesdoucheslagalerie.com](http://lesdoucheslagalerie.com)

# *L'imprévisible*

## IMAGES

### **Frank Horvat**

*Carol Lobravico at the Café de Flore, French haute couture, Paris, for Harper's Bazaar, 1962*

Posterior gelatin-silver print made in 1997 by Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front, signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Print size: 50 x 40 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2206018



### **Frank Horvat**

*Suburban trains concourse, Saint-Lazare station, Paris, for Réalités, 1959*

Posterior gelatin-silver print, made in 2004 by Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front, signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Print size: 50 x 40 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2110005



### **Frank Horvat**

*Mondrian fashion by Saint-Laurent, Madrid, Spain, for Harper's Bazaar, 1964*

Posterior gelatin-silver print, made by Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front, signed, titled and dated by Hervé Hudry

Print size: 50 x 40 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2206009



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# *L'imprévisible*

## IMAGES

### **Frank Horvat**

*Deborah Dixon on the Spanish Steps, Italian haute couture, Rome, Italy, for Harper's Bazaar, 1962*

Posterior gelatin-silver print, made by Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front, signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Print size: 50 x 40 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2206029



### **Frank Horvat**

*Fashion in the métro, Paris, France, for Jardin des Modes, 1958*

Posterior gelatin-silver print, made by Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front, signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Print size: 30 x 40 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2206023



### **Frank Horvat**

*Coco Chanel, hidden, watches her show, Paris, for Jours de France, 1958*

Posterior gelatin-silver print

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front, signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Image size: 24 x 36 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Numéro d'inventaire: FH2203039



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# *L'imprévisible*

## IMAGES

### **Frank Horvat**

*Bathing suit, Djerba, Tunisia, for Harper's Bazaar*  
UK, 1965

Posterior gelatin-silver print, made by Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front,  
signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Print size: 50 x 40 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2206002



### **Frank Horvat**

*Paris through a telephoto lens, Champs Elysées,*  
France, 1956

Posterior gelatin-silver print, made in 2004 by  
Hervé Hudry

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front,  
signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Image size: 35 x 23 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2203016



### **Frank Horvat**

*Anna Karina at Les Halles, Paris, for Jours de France*, 1959

Posterior gelatin-silver print

Signed and numbered by the artist on the front,  
signed, titled and dated in pencil on the back

Print size: 40 x 30 cm

© Frank Horvat / Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris

Stock number: FH2110004



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# Frank Horvat

## ABOUT

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

**2022** : *Frank Horvat*, Acte Sud, Arles, France

**2022** : *Frank Horvat 50-65*, Jeu de Paume – Château de Tours, France

**2021** : *Paris, années 1950*, Maison de la photographie Robert-Doisneau, Gentilly, France

**2020** : *Vraies Semblances, 1981 - 1986*, Galerie Lelong & Co., espace Matignon, Paris, France

**2019** : *House with Fifteen Keys*, Multimedia Art Museum - Moscow House of Photography, Moscow, Russian Federation

**2018** : *Frank Horvat et ses contemporains*, Vieille Eglise Saint-Vincent, Mérignac, France

*Frank Horvat et ses contemporains*, Musée de la Photographie, Lille, France

*Please don't smile*, Museo Palau Solterra, Torroella de Montgrí, Spain

*Frank Horvat. Storia di un fotografo*, Musei Reali Torino - Sale Chiavalese, Turin, Italy

*Un moment d'une femme*, Nexus Hall Chanel, Tokyo, Japan

**2015** : *House with Fifteen keys*, Helmut Newton Foundation, Berlin, Germany

**2014** : *House with Fifteen keys*, Théâtre de la Photographie et de l'Image, Nice, France

**2012** : *Retrospective*, Brucie Collections, Kiev, Ukraine

**2011** : *No repeat*, CRAF - Centro di Ricerca e Archiviazione della Fotografia, Spilimbergo, Italy

*L'Eleganza nella moda e nel quotidiano*, Photographica FineArt Gallery, Lugano, Switzerland

**2010** : *Fashion Photographs*, Manège Gallery, Saint Petersbourg, Russian Federation

**2008** : *New York up and down*, La-Maison-près-Bastille, Paris, France

*Ways of an eye*, Villa Tamaris, La Seyne, France

**2007** : *Strip-tease*, Libreria d'arte Assolibri, Florence, Italy

**2005** : *Photographs of the sculptures by Robert Couturier*, Fondation Dina Vierny, Paris, France

*La Veronique*, Libreria d'arte Assolibri, Florence, Italy

**2003** : *Rétrospective*, Maison de la Photographie, Toulon, France

**2002** : *Hommage to Catalonia*, Fundation Vila Casas, Barcelona, Spain

**2000** : *51 Photographs in Black and White*, Musée Régional des Centovalli, Intragna, Switzerland

*1999, a daily report and Paris vintage*, Musée Régional des Centovalli, Intragna, Switzerland

**1999** : *Goethe in Sicily*, Casa di Goethe, Rome, Italy

*Horvat's Bestiary*, Zoological Museum, Kiel, Germany

**1998** : *Goethe in Sicily*, Goethe-Haus, Francfort, Germany

*Vraies Semblances*, Institut Français, Valence, France

**1997** : *Frank Horvat*, Photographie-Forum, Francfort, Germany

*Frank Horvat*, Institut Français, Prague, Czech Republic

*Frank Horvat*, Institut Français, Bratislava, Slovakia

**1996** : *Fashion Photography*, Fotofest, Houston, USA

# Frank Horvat

## ABOUT

Paris-London, Musée Carnavalet, Paris, France

**1995** : *Le Bestiaire d'Horvat*, Centro Krizia, Milan, Italy

Le Bestiaire d'Horvat, Parc Régional de la Bresse, France

**1994** : *Le Bestiaire d'Horvat*, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France

**1993** : *Fashion Photographs*, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France

Frank Horvat, Foto-folies, Rodez, France

**1990** : *Vraies Semblances*, Fotofest, Houston, USA

Vraies Semblances, French Institute, New York, USA

**1989** : *Photographies de mode*, Espace Paris-Audiovisuel, Paris, France

Album de famille, Comptoir de la Photographie, Paris, France

Photographies de mode, Festival de la Photographie de Mode, Trouville, France

**1988** : *Photographes et créateurs de mode*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

Fashion photography, Centre Culturel Français, Prague, Czech Republic

Fashion photography, Bell Commons Space, Tokyo, Japan

**1985** : *Photographies de mode*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Montbéliard, France

**1984** : *Arbres*, Centre Culturel, Toulon, France

**1983** : *Arbres*, Maison de la Culture, Angoulême, France

Arbres, La Chambre Claire, Paris, France

Vraies Semblances, Espace Canon, Paris, France

**1982** : *Trees*, National Museum, La Valette, Malta

**1979** : *Trees*, International Center of Photography, New York, USA

**1977** : *Arbres*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Nantes, France

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

**2021** : *Frank Horvat x Sarah Conton Terquem*, at Parcours Saint Germain, Paris, France

**2020** : *Women On View, Aesthetics of Desire in Advertising - Chaussée 36 Photography Collection*, Frauen Museum Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, Germany

**2019** : *50 ans d'Expos*, Les Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles, France

Dyptics, at La Mostra Fotografica, Carona Immagina at Carona, Switzerland

**2018** : *Entre nous, Soizic Audouard et Catherine Thieck ouvrent leurs tiroirs de photographies*, Galerie de France, Paris, France

**2017** : *FNAC, Une Collection pour l'exemple II*, Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon sur Saône, France

**2016** : *Imago - Portraits photographiques*, Musée Réattu, Arles, France

Eyes Wide Open! 100 jaar Leica fotografie, Kunsthall Sint-Pietersabdij, Gand, Belgium

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## ABOUT

**2015** : *Newton. Horvat. Brodziak*, Museum für Fotografie, Berlin, Germany

*Maillol et les Photographes, de Octave Mirbeau à Frank Horvat*, Musée Maillol, Banyuls sur Mer, France

**2013** : *Fantastic Machinery*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey

**2010** : *Lunga vista sul ritratto*, 10b Photography, Rome, Italy

**2008** : *Mujeres en plural*, Fundacion Canal, Madrid, Spain

**2003** : *Fables de l'identité*, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France

**2000** : *Femmes plus que Femmes*, Fundation Armando Alvarezo Penteado, São Paulo, Brazil

**1994** : *Collective Exhibition*, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland

**1992** : *Sculptures by Degas*, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France

**1991** : *Appearances*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom

**1985** : *Fashion Photography*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom

**1984** : *Renault*, Centre Kodak, Paris, France

**1983** : *Arbres*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

**1982** : *Paris-Paris*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

**1955** : *The Family of Man*, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA

## COLLECTIONS

### France

- Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
- CNAP, Ministère de la Culture, Paris (ex-Fonds National d'Art Contemporain)
- Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris
- Musée Carnavalet, Paris
- Musée Galliera, Paris
- Centre Pompidou, Paris
- Fondation Cartier, Jouy-en-Josas, Versailles
- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
- Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes

### Europe

- Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany
- Kunstabibliothek, Berlin, Germany
- Carona Immagina, Carona, Switzerland
- Museo Masi, Lugano, Switzerland
- Carona Museo Masi, Italy

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## **ABOUT**

- Muséi Réali, Torino, Italy
- Fundation Vila Casas, Barcelona, Spain
- Modern Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

### **Amérique**

- MOMA, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- Eastman House, Rochester, New York, USA
- High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, USA
- Detroit Institute of Art, USA
- Paul Getty collection, Los Angeles, USA
- Presentation House, Vancouver, Canada

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**Du mercredi au samedi de 14h à 19h**

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