

Annie Leibovitz Archive Project #1: The Early Years

LUMA Foundation, LUMA Arles, France

On view May 28 – September 24, 2017

Opening: Friday, May 27, 2017

www.luma-arles.org

Over the past six years, the LUMA Foundation has nurtured a series of ongoing collaborations with several artists, resulting in a **Living Archive Program** that integrates diverse forms of art, including photography, design, literature, film, and dance. The next step of this experimental and multi-disciplinary program will make these resources available to the public in a manner intended by the artists. Open to students, scholars, artists, and visitors, LUMA's Living Archive Program will be housed in a shared space located at the foundation's Parc des Ateliers site in Arles, France, and will enable discovery, consultation, and research through a series of exhibitions, scholarly projects, and special events.

In anticipation of the completion of the building that will house this dynamic program, **the LUMA Foundation is pleased to announce the acquisition and inaugural exhibition of the archives of legendary photographer Annie Leibovitz**, who has created iconic portraits for nearly fifty years. Intended as the first of several major projects dedicated to the study and reinterpretation of the artist's living archives, **Annie Leibovitz Archive Project #1: The Early Years** consists of over eight thousand photographs taken between 1968 and 1983, traces her development as a young artist, and follows her successes in the 1970s as she documented the culture that defined this pivotal era.

The first project dedicated exclusively to the origins of her career, **Archive Project #1: The Early Years** focuses on the artist's earliest work as a way to more fully contextualize her widely-recognized practice. The exhibition opens with Leibovitz's first photographs, taken in 1968. Enrolled at the time at the San Francisco Art Institute as a painting major, Leibovitz soon transitioned into the school's legendary photography department and within a year had published her first pictures—a series of reportage-like images of Vietnam War protests—in the recently founded magazine *Rolling Stone*. Reflecting the influence of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Frank, Leibovitz's instinctual approach to photojournalism and portraiture informed her early photographs of John Lennon and the Rolling Stones as well as her coverage of the 1972 presidential campaign with Hunter S. Thompson and the Apollo 17 space launch with Tom Wolfe.

Named *Rolling Stone*'s Chief Photographer in 1973, Leibovitz created some of the most memorable images of the decade—often featured as cover images of the increasingly influential bi-monthly

magazine—while documenting President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974 and immersing herself in an extended tour with the Rolling Stones in 1975. Characterized by her intuitive sense of timing and perspective, her distinctive images also reflect the psychological proximity she achieved with her diverse subjects—a register of intimacy apparent in her 1980 portrait of John Lennon and Yoko Ono, taken just hours before Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

Annie Leibovitz Archive Project #1: The Early Years concludes in 1983, a turning point in her life. Within the span of several months, the artist resigned from *Rolling Stone*, published a monograph of her early photographs, and began working as a contributing photographer for the newly revived *Vanity Fair*.

Organized by Matthieu Humery, Director of the LUMA Foundation's Living Archive Program, in collaboration with Annie Leibovitz, **Annie Leibovitz Archive Project #1: The Early Years** is part of this year's summer season of exhibitions and cultural programming at LUMA Arles, Parc des Ateliers, Arles (France). The exhibit is the first in a series of interdisciplinary experimental initiatives currently being developed by the foundation in connection with the idea of the 'living archive', which will convene in Arles the bodies of work of a number of major artists and cultural practitioners from different fields.

The exhibition also marks the tenth anniversary of La Grande Halle, a monumental 1860's boiler-making factory, as an exhibition venue. **Annie Leibovitz Archive Project #1: The Early Years** will offer new ways of viewing the renowned photographer's images through a unique exhibition structure, granting visitors the opportunity to see the work as a whole while allowing for focus on individual images. Inspired by the physical conditions of Leibovitz's New York studio, the exhibition is intended as a densely-packed display and chronological study of the artist's early career and will consider Leibovitz's influences and evolving creative process as she began to experiment with color film, strobes, and natural light.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue produced by Taschen in collaboration with the LUMA Foundation. Intended as an object that reflects the structure of the exhibition, the publication will feature key images and descriptions of Leibovitz's early work and will provide a historical context for her photography and life.

On **Thursday, July 6th**, the LUMA Foundation will co-present—at the invitation of Sam Stourdézé, Director of Les Rencontres d'Arles—a **special evening event with Annie Leibovitz** at the Theatre Antique in Arles. One of several major events taking place in Arles in early July, this program will occur during the international photography festival's opening week (July 3rd to 9th).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Annie Leibovitz

Annie Leibovitz (b. 1949, Waterbury, Connecticut, USA) began her career as a photojournalist for *Rolling Stone* in 1970 while she was still a student at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her pictures have appeared regularly on magazine covers ever since. In 1983, when she joined the staff of the revived *Vanity Fair*, she was established as the foremost rock-music photographer and an astute documentarian of the social landscape. For over three decades, at *Vanity Fair* and later at *Vogue*, she has been adding to a large and distinguished body of work that includes some of the most well-known portraits of our time.

Several collections of Leibovitz's work have been published and exhibitions of her photographs have appeared in museums and galleries all over the world, including the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C; the National Portrait Gallery in London; and the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Russia.

She 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. In 2009, she received the International Center of Photography's Lifetime Achievement Award, the first Creative Excellence Award from the American Society of Magazine Editors, 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 to Distinguished Women in the Arts and the Wexner Prize. In 2013 she received the Prince of Asturias Award for Communication and Humanities. Leibovitz has been designated a Living Legend by the Library of Congress.

About the LUMA Foundation and LUMA Arles

The LUMA Foundation was established in 2004 by Maja Hoffmann in Switzerland to support the activities of independent artists and pioneers as well as institutions working in the fields of visual arts, photography, publishing, documentary, and multimedia.

The foundation commissions, produces, and supports challenging artistic projects, combining a particular interest in environmental issues, human rights, education, and culture in the broadest sense.

Since 2015, the foundation supports the LUMA Rencontres Dummy Book Award, which it established together with the Rencontres d'Arles.

Maja Hoffmann launched LUMA Arles in 2013 to conduct the preliminary work, construction, and eventually, the development and administration of the Parc des Ateliers project. LUMA Arles also has as its mission to support the LUMA Foundation by working, from Arles, towards the creation of a new model for cultural centers.

LUMA Arles is a new experimental contemporary art center that brings together artists, researchers, curators, and creators from every field to collaborate on multi-disciplinary works and exhibitions. Located at the Parc des Ateliers, a sixteen-acre site consisting of railway workshops built in the 1840s, LUMA Arles includes a cultural resource building designed by architect Frank Gehry; a series of industrial buildings currently being restored by Selldorf Architects; and a surrounding public park designed by landscape architect Bas Smets.

While the opening of the main building at the Parc des Ateliers is scheduled for 2018, an artistic program developed in collaboration with the LUMA Arles core group of artistic consultants—Tom Eccles, Liam Gillick, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Philippe Parreno, and Beatrix Ruf—is presented periodically in the already inaugurated venues of La Grande Halle, Les Forges, and La Mécanique Générale.

Recent projects produced by the LUMA Foundation for LUMA Arles at Parc des Ateliers in Arles include: *Systematically Open: New Forms for Contemporary Image Production* (2016); *Imponderable: The Archives of Tony Oursler* (2015); *Frank Gehry: Solaris Chronicles* (2014); *Wolfgang Tillmans: Neue Welt* (2013); *To the Moon via the Beach* (2012); *Doug Aitken: Altered Earth* (2012); *How Soon is Now* (2010) and the symposia *How Institutions Think* (2016); *The Flood of Rights* (2013) and *The Human Snapshot* (2011).