

Press Release

THE BODY OBSERVED: MAGNUM PHOTOS

23 March – 30 June 2019

Press View: Friday 22 March 2019



*Ophelias, from the series The Adventures of Guille and Belinda and The Enigmatic Meaning of Their Dreams, 2002.
Alessandra Sanguinetti / Magnum Photos*

**Eve Arnold | Olivia Arthur | Werner Bischof | Antoine d'Agata | Bieke Depoorter |
Cristina García Roderó | Bruce Gilden | Philippe Halsman | Tim Hetherington | Herbert
List | Susan Meiselas | Miguel Rio Branco | Alessandra Sanguinetti | Alec Soth**

The Body Observed, a major new photography exhibition organised by the Sainsbury Centre and Magnum Photos, will include over 130 works from the 1930s to the present. The exhibition will explore how Magnum photographers have turned their lens to the human body, examining issues such as identity, intimacy, sexuality and ritual, to voyeurism and performance amongst others.

The exhibition will include well-known images such as Eve Arnold's portraits of Hollywood icon Joan Crawford, and Philippe Halsman's *Dalí Atomicus*, a work selected for *TIME* magazine's

SAINSBURY CENTRE



“100 Most Influential Images of All Time” in 2016. Also included are photographs by Alec Soth from his series *Niagara*— an exploration of melancholy love in one of America’s best-known honeymoon destinations, photographs from Susan Meiselas’ celebrated *Carnival Strippers* series and Alessandra Sanguinetti’s *Ophelias*, from *The Adventures of Guille and Belinda*, inspired by John Everett Millais’ classic painting.

The body has been a recurrent subject throughout the history of art but the advent of photography offered new opportunities to engage with past modes of representation. Photography had the potential to mimic or subvert existing visual codes and the camera has been used to examine, categorise, scrutinise and objectify the human form, establishing a new visual language.

Magnum Photos was founded in 1947 by the photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa, George Rodger and David ‘Chim’ Seymour. A cooperative, Magnum was initially established in New York but offices soon followed in London and Paris. They are now recognised as one of the best-known photo agencies, whose members include many of the world’s leading photographers.

The exhibition will be curated by Monserrat Pis Marcos, curator at the Sainsbury Centre, in collaboration with Emily Graham, Cultural Commissions & Partnerships at Magnum Photos.

Notes to Editors

Regional press enquiries:

Charlene Katuwawala | c.katuwawala@uea.ac.uk | 01603 592470

National press enquiries:

Eleanor Macnair PR | eleanormacnair@hotmail.com | 07815 780708

Exhibition Information

The Body Observed: Magnum Photos

23 March - 30 June 2019

£13 | £12 concessions

50% off for under 18s, full-time students and Art Fund Members FREE for Sainsbury Centre Members, UEA and NUA Student Members

SAINSBURY CENTRE



About Magnum Photos

Magnum Photos was founded in Paris in 1947 as an artists' co-operative by four pioneering photographers, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa, David "Chim" Seymour, and George Rodger. The legendary photo agency continues to shape photographic practice and maintains its original values of uncompromising excellence, truth, respect and independence, representing an idiosyncratic mix of journalist, artist and storyteller. Magnum photographers share a vision to chronicle world events, people, places and culture with a powerful narrative that defies convention, shatters the status quo, redefines history and transforms lives.

About the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre is one of the most important public university art galleries in Britain. It was founded in 1973 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the support of one of the nation's great philanthropic families, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury who donated their extraordinary art collection which includes works dating from prehistory to the late twentieth century from across the globe. A radical new building by Norman Foster was designed to house the collection and was his first public work.

The Sainsbury Centre holds one of the most impressive art collections outside of the national institutions. It includes a significant number of works by modern masters of European art such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Francis Bacon, Jacob Epstein, Jean Arp, Chaïm Soutine and Amedeo Modigliani. There is also a remarkable collection of art and antiquities dating from prehistory to the late twentieth century from across the globe. There are major holdings from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as Medieval Europe. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of exhibitions in the largest suite of temporary exhibitions galleries in Eastern England.

scva.ac.uk

SAINSBURY CENTRE



Also at the Sainsbury Centre

Ken Kiff: The Sequence

Until 21 April 2019

Ken Kiff (1935–2001), was one of the most original artists working in Britain at the end of the 20th century. Widely considered to be one of the most important artists of his generation, Kiff spent his career exploring issues that fused the complexity of the individual psyche with everyday life. This major exhibition is the first showing of his work in a public gallery for over 25 years, and comes at a time when many are re-appraising Kiff's unique contribution.

This show focuses on selected works from the artist's seminal series *The Sequence*. Begun in the 1970s and regarded by Kiff as a single work, *The Sequence* was an ongoing series of vivid paintings on paper that explored a consistent set of themes and images. In some ways, Kiff was seeking to create a contemporary mythology and symbolism. Within the images, figurative elements fluidly combine with abstract forms. This, coupled with his use of colour, results in an utterly distinctive visual language. *Ken Kiff: The Sequence* at the Sainsbury Centre will be the biggest ever single display of this significant body of work.