

## LOUIS STETTNER

- 1922 Born November 7, in Brooklyn, New York.
- 1936 Starts photographing.
- 1938 Encouraged by Alfred Stieglitz and Paul Strand.
- 1940-41 Enlists in United States Army.  
Sent to study engineering at Princeton University.
- 1942-45 Combat photographer with the U.S. Infantry in the Pacific.
- 1947-52 Lives in Paris and organizes the first exhibition of French photography in the U.S.  
(with photographers such as Brassai, Izis, Boubat, Doisneau, Ronis, etc.).  
On going friendship with Brassai, who is his maitre.  
Works as freelance photographer for various magazines in Europe and U.S.  
Studies at IDHEC, Paris University for cinema.  
Photographs Paris continually during this period.
- 1949 First exhibits in Salon des Independents, Bibliotheque Nationale.
- 1952 Returns to the United States.  
Photographs New York.  
Works as freelance photographer.
- 1952-71 Periodic trips to photograph Paris, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Holland and Mexico.
- 1972-74 Photographic study of Workers.  
Continues to photograph New York.
- 1981-84 Photographic series of still lifes, nudes and landscapes.
- 1990 Returns to France permanently to live and work in Saint-Ouen (Seine Saint Denis).
- 1990-97 Photographs Paris.  
Works on several series, including Marche aux Puces, Croissants, Tetes du Metro, and Tetes du Louvre.  
Does Bronze sculptures.  
Periodic visits to photograph New York.

## LOUIS STETTNER

**Birth:** November 7, 1922. Brooklyn, New York

**Education:** 1952 – 56 B.A., Photography and Cinema, I.D.H.E.C. and Paris University

### **Selected Exhibitions (after 1985):**

- 2006 "Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
"Streetwise: 1947-2006" Bonni Benrubi Gallery, New York  
"Many Hands: Representation of Railroad Workers" New York Transit Museum, New York, NY
- 2004 "Water Water Everywhere" Andrea Meislin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 "Les Choix d'Henri Cartier Bresson," Fondation Henri Cartier Bresson, Paris, France  
"Women: A Celebration"; Orange County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2002 "Unseen Stettner: 1946-2002," Bonni Benrubi Gallery, NYC  
"What's New: Recent Acquisitions in Photography", Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC  
"Let's Have Lunch", COPIA Center for Wine Food & the Arts, Napa, CA  
"Visions From America: Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC  
"New York, New York", The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
- 2000 "Bright Lights, Big City, Winston Wachter Mayer Fine Art, New York, NY  
"Recent Work," Librairie Mouvements, Paris, France  
"Paris – New York", l'Espace Saint-Bernardin, Le Cannet, France  
"Photograph + Monograph", Bonni Benrubi Gallery, NYC, NY
- 1999 "Bright Lights, Big City", Winston Wachter Fine Art, Seattle, WA  
"Wisdom Cries Out in the Streets" Bonni Benrubi Gallery, New York, NY
- 1998 *Fifty from the Fifties*: Galerie Uterman, Dortmund, Germany
- 1997 "New York / Paris" Bonni Benrubi Gallery, New York, NY  
"Brooklyn, NY", Bonni Benrubi Gallery, NYC
- 1996 Whitney Museum of American Art  
"Train of Thought," Bonni Benrubi Gallery, New York, NY  
Hirschl & Adler Modern Gallery, New York  
Lallak & Tom, Gallery, Chicago, Il.  
Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York  
"Readers" , The Grolier Club, New York  
Bonni Benrubi Gallery, New York
- 1994 "Five on New York", Bonni Benrubi Gallery, NYC
- 1992 Center of Photography, Geneva  
Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York  
Photography Gallery, Malaga
- 1990 Galerie Agathe Baillard, Paris

Gallery Zaragoza, Spain  
Vision Gallery, San Francisco  
1989 Comptoire de la Photographie, Paris  
Kate Hellner Gallery, London  
Berenson Gallery, Berlin  
1987 Photofind Gallery, New York  
1985 International Center of Photography, New York

### **Selected Collections:**

Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C.  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts, New York  
Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, WA  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago  
San Francisco Museum of Art, California  
Victoria-Albert Museum, London  
Musee Carnavalet, Paris  
Bibliotheque Historique, Paris  
Musee d'Elysee, Lausanne  
International Center of Photography, New York  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio  
Reader's Digest Foundation Collection  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz  
Merill Lynch & Companies Art Collection  
The Jewish Museum, New York, NY  
Siegal & Gale Collection, New York, NY  
The Buhl Collection, New York, NY

### **Selected Publications:**

"Stettner Photos, Burckhardt Oils, New Spanierman: 57th Street";  
Bloomberg.com ; exhibition review by Michael Killeen, July 11, 2006  
"Louis Stettner: Streetwise 1947-2006" Review by Grace Glueck,  
*The New York Times*, July 7, 2006  
"Louis Stettner", *The New Yorker*, June 19, 2006  
" In Love with Paris & New York: Louis Stettner"; Exhibition review, by  
William Meyers, *The New York Sun*, Thursday June, 29 2006  
"Spotlight: Louis Stettner.;; Black & White Magazine Issue 40, December 2005  
"Le Reveil des Combattants"; *ARAC*, 204  
Les Choix D'Henri Cartier Bresson; Foundation Cartier-Bresson, 2003  
"Louis Stettner: Unseen Stettner 1946-2002," by Sarah Douglas, *The Art Newspaper*, January 2003  
Women: A Celebration; Chronicle books, 2003  
"Louis Stettner: Unseen Stettner 1946-2002" *The New York Times*;

December 20, 2002

Wisdom Cries Out in the Streets: Louis Stettner, Abbeyville Press, 1999

Louis Stettner, (Photo Poche), Nathan Press, 1998

"Leg" Donna Karan, 1997

Louis Stettner's New York, Rizzoli, Winter 1997

"Under Paris Skies: Louis Stettner's Photographs"; *The Chicago Tribune*,  
February 21, 1997

"Passage of Light"; *Where Chicago*; March 1997

Choo-Choo- Baby: Louis Stettner's Penn Station"; *Vanity Fair*, March 1996

"Choo Choo, Baby", *Vanity Fair* Magazine, March 1996, p. 106

"Sous Le Ciel de Paris", Intro. by Cavanna, Parigramme, Paris, 1994

"Early Joys", (Photographs from 1947 - 72), Janet Iffland, New York, 1987

"Sur Le Tas", Cercle d'Art, Paris, 1979

"Streets of Paris", Introduction by Brassai, Paris, 1947

**LOUIS STETTNER** has had a long and distinguished career in photography. Starting at the age of thirteen, encouraged by Alfred Steiglitz and Paul Strand, his photographs are now in such permanent collections as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

While there have been significant exhibitions in the United States and Europe, his work remains relatively unknown to the general public. Greatly appreciated by fellow photographers and discerning collectors, the problem as photography critic Kelly Wise aptly states: "rarely is his work shown in breadth." Which is precisely the purpose of his book *Early Joys*. Slowly a legend has blossomed about his early photographs (1947 - 1972) that has strongly influenced young photographers. Yet its true scope and depth has been only available to those fortunate enough to visit his print room.

There is a most stirring and perceptive Introduction by his teacher and lifelong friend, the famous French photographer Brassai (Stettner is the only photographer to be honored): "Stettner has always been fully conscious that the role of the photographer is not to turn away from all reference to reality, but on the contrary to express a profound experience with it."

There is the photographer's own observations about the photographs included, as well as an in-depth statement about his fundamental outlook to his Art entitled *Case for the Indestructible Image*. With the bibliography are essays and reviews (covering 25 years) by noted photography critics that clarifies and enriches our appreciation and enjoyment of his photographs. The book *Early Joys* should become a classic reference to the photographs of this great American photographer.

--From *Early Joys*