

The Founding of Magnum circa 1947

ROBERT CAPA
Conflict

HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON
New York

GEORGE RODGER
Uganda

DAVID SEYMOUR (CHIM)
Displaced Children

April 30 – June 12, 2004

New York - The Howard Greenberg Gallery proudly celebrates the founding of Magnum in 1947 with an exhibition of works by Robert Capa (1913-1954), Henri Cartier-Bresson (born 1908), David Seymour (Chim) (1911-1956) and George Rodger (1908-1995). This exhibition will be held in conjunction with “Magnum in May” - a host of exhibitions, film screenings, and lectures around New York City presenting well-known documentary photographers from the world’s most renowned photographic co-operative. The public is cordially invited to a reception at the gallery on Thursday, April 29th, from 6 to 8 pm.

The advent of the Magnum photo agency, in the aftermath of World War II, marked the

“decisive moment” in which a new vision of photojournalism was born. Magnum co-founders and photographers Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and David Seymour (Chim) met in Paris during the 1930s and spent hours discussing photography and politics in the cafés of Montparnasse. Capa formed a close friendship with George Rodger, another Magnum co-founder, during the Italian campaign in 1942. After the war, they were all profoundly affected by their experiences and shared a common goal of protecting their artistic and political freedom to convey, in their own unique styles, the stories of the times beyond the dictates of magazine journalism.

The Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to present the Robert Capa vintage prints from his brother Cornell Capa's personal collection. Robert Capa was acknowledged in 1938 by *Picture Post* as being "The Greatest War Photographer in the World". He photographed conflicts around the world including the Spanish Civil War, the bombing of Hankou in China, World War II, and the founding of the state of Israel. These images reveal the terror and the devastation of war and the triumph of the human spirit in times of great adversity and evil. Capa was killed by a landmine on assignment for LIFE magazine in Vietnam in 1954.

In contrast to Capa's photojournalistic approach, David Seymour (Chim) was more directly engaged with his subjects. He is best known for his body of work referred to as *Chim's Children*, which was part of a three-year UNICEF project. Chim's photographs reveal the innocence and resilience of refugee children in post-war Europe. An interest in political and social developments, and a refined intellect, led Chim to countries such as Greece and Israel. After Capa's death, Chim, together with Cartier-Bresson, was largely responsible for the expansion and survival of Magnum until he too was killed while on assignment in 1956.

Henri Cartier-Bresson, the highly acclaimed and influential photographer, came to photography from an artistic background. His attention to composition and form provides an aesthetically charged counterpoint to Capa and Chim's respectively journalistic and intimate photographs. Based in France, he traveled extensively and made many trips to America. Included in the exhibition are photographs taken in New York City in 1946 and 1947, some of which have never before been published. These images capture humorous and decisive moments in the subways, back streets and boroughs of a city that, more than any other city, encompasses the diverse and complex nature of the world we live in.

One of George Rodger's first tasks as a Magnum photographer was to search for the Nuba tribe in Southern Sudan. He returned to Africa in 1948 to travel the entire length of the continent. The "healing innocence" of Africa provided an aesthetic balm for the emotional wounds inflicted by years of being a war photographer. The photographs shown here of the Bachimbiri tribe on the Uganda-Congo border, taken in 1948, reveal the artistic and technical expertise of a great photojournalist at large, exploring and respectfully recording the lives of remote communities around the world.

For further information, or to request visuals for press, please contact Margit Erb at 212 334 0010, margit@howardgreenberg.com.
[Starting April 29th, the exhibition can be viewed at www.howardgreenberg.com](http://www.howardgreenberg.com)