



International Center of Photography

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media release



The Mexican Suitcase

The contents of the Mexican Suitcase are presented in a two-volume edition that includes all 4,500 negatives and illustrated scholarly essays:

Volume 1: The History

160 pages

100+ color and black-and-white illustrations
Essays by David Balsells, Simon Dell, Bernard Lebrun and Michel Lefebvre, Kristen Lubben, Paul Preston, Brian Wallis, and Cynthia Young

Volume 2: The Films

432 pages

4,500 negatives

100+ color and black-and-white illustrations
Essays by Miriam Basilio, Sebastiaan Faber, Anthony L. Geist, Helen Graham, Daniel Kowalsky, Juan José Lahuerta, Marie-Hélène Meléndez, Jordana Mendelson, Carole Naggar, Vanessa Rocco, Juan Salas, Irme Schaber, Rosemary Sullivan, and Amanda Vaill

Design by Martin Venezky, Appetite Engineers

Published by ICP/Steidl

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Lost since 1939, the Mexican Suitcase contains nearly 4,500 negatives documenting the Spanish Civil War by Robert Capa, Chim (David Seymour), and Gerda Taro. These films had traveled from Paris via the south of France to Mexico City, where, almost seventy years later, they were recovered and now reside in the collection of the International Center of Photography. This material not only provides a uniquely rich and panoramic view of the Spanish Civil War, a conflict that changed the course of European history, but also demonstrates how the work of these legendary photographers laid the foundation for modern war photography. Published throughout the international press, their innovative and passionate coverage of the war was both engaged and partisan. While overtly supporting the antifascist Republican cause, their dramatic photographs vividly recorded battle sequences as well as the harrowing effects of war on civilians. Equally compelling are the stories of the photographers themselves as revealed through their images: the dashing Capa, the studious Chim, and the intrepid Taro, who died tragically in 1937 during the Battle of Brunete. This is the history of three young people and the ties—personal, political, artistic—that bound them.