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The International Center of Photography Launches *Mexican Suitcase* European Tour
Exhibition travels to Arles, Barcelona, Madrid, and Paris through 2013

New York, NY (July 7, 2011) — A traveling tour of *The Mexican Suitcase*, a groundbreaking exhibition revealing the most famous group of recovered negatives of the twentieth century, launched July 4 as the centerpiece of Les Rencontres d'Arles in France. It will be on view at Arles until September 18, 2011. The Arles festival also premiered *The Mexican Suitcase* on July 5, a film directed by Trisha Ziff.

Considered lost since 1939, the so-called Mexican Suitcase is in fact three boxes containing 4,500 negatives documenting the Spanish Civil War by Robert Capa, Chim (David Seymour), and Gerda Taro. There are also several rolls of portraits of Capa and Taro by Fred Stein. Besides offering new images by these major photographers that provide a comprehensive overview of the war, the cache of negatives also includes previously unknown portraits of Ernest Hemingway, Federico Garcia Lorca, and Dolores Ibarruri (known as "La Pasionaria").

"Capa, Chim, and Taro risked their lives to witness history in the making and show it to the world, and the Mexican Suitcase contains some of their most important works. Its recovery set in motion a profound shift in the study of these three photographers," said ICP Assistant Curator Cynthia Young, who organized the exhibition, which was on view at ICP's midtown galleries from September 24, 2010 to May 8, 2011. "The material contained in the Mexican Suitcase documents a turning point in the history of photojournalism."

In the process of researching the negatives, the authorship of numerous images by Capa, Chim, and Taro has been confirmed or reattributed. 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. Appearing 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 the war on civilians.

The exhibition received high praise from reviewers and visitors alike as it provides a glimpse into the photographic process that few see. As a review of the exhibition in *The New York Times* stated, "They were also committed to a new style of wartime journalism, which found photographers embedding themselves right in the center of combat and shooting, rapid-fire and up-close, everything around them. This total immersion, made possible by increasingly hand-held cameras, generated huge numbers of images. And that's what you get in this show: hundreds and hundreds of tiny pictures lined up edge to edge on contact sheets to create a display of a kind that museumgoers rarely encounter but that photographers see all the time: squint-inducing, unedited, in progress."

Confirmed venues for the traveling exhibition include:

Rencontres d'Arles Photographie, Arles, France: July 4, 2011 – September 18, 2011

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain: October 6, 2011 – January 15, 2012

Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain: July 15, 2012 – September 30, 2012

Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme, Paris, France: February 27, 2013 – May 26, 2013

The Mexican Suitcase catalogue, which recently won the American Association of Museum's Frances Smyth-Ravenel Prize for Excellence in Publication Design, accompanies the exhibition and has been translated into French and Spanish. The English version is available through ICP's online store at www.icp.org/store.

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About ICP

The International Center of Photography (ICP) was founded in 1974 by Cornell Capa (1918-2008) as an institution dedicated to photography that occupies a vital and central place in contemporary culture as it reflects and influences social change. Through our museum, school and community programs, we embrace photography's ability to open new opportunities for personal and aesthetic expression, transform popular culture, and continually evolve to incorporate new technologies. ICP has presented more than 500 exhibitions, bringing the work of more than 3,000 photographers and other artists to the public in one-person and group exhibitions and provided thousands of classes and workshops that have enriched tens of thousands of students. Visit www.icp.org for more information.

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