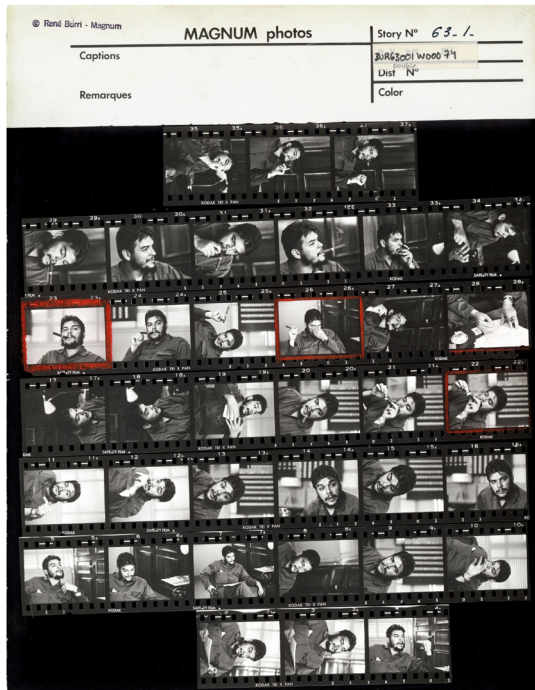




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media release

Magnum Contact Sheets



On view from
January 20, 2011
through
May 6, 2012

Media Preview
January 19, 2011
11:30 am–1:30 pm

RSVP:
info@icp.org
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René Burri
Che Guevara, Havana, 1963
© René Burri/Magnum Photos

Often compared to an artist’s sketchbook, a contact sheet is the photographer’s first look at what he or she has captured on film, and provides a uniquely intimate glimpse into the working process. It gives a behind-the-scenes sense of walking alongside photographers and seeing through their eyes. From January 20 through May 6, 2012, *Magnum Contact Sheets* will be on view at the International Center of Photography (1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street), revealing how Magnum photographers have captured and edited their best shots from the 1930s to the present.

The images featured—both celebrated, iconic photographs and lesser-known surprises—encompass more than 70 years of history: from the Normandy landings by Robert Capa, the 1968 Paris riots by Bruno Barbey, and the war in Chechnya by Thomas Dworzak, to René Burri’s filmic sequence of close-ups of Che Guevara, classic New Yorkers by Bruce Gilden, and Eve Arnold’s famous portrait of the charismatic and image-savvy Malcolm X.

“The contact sheet embodies much of the appeal of photography itself: the sense of time unfolding, a durable trace of movement through space, an apparent authentication of photography’s claims to transparent representation of reality,” said ICP Associate Curator Kristen Lubben, who organized the exhibition. “It records each step on the route to arriving at a particular image, and thus provides a unique window into the creative process.”

This exhibition, through these fascinating and usually private series of images (many of them previously unpublished), celebrates what and how Magnum photographers saw along the way for nearly a century.

(more)

Coinciding with the publication of *Magnum Contact Sheets* (Thames & Hudson), edited by Lubben, the exhibition will include a selection of some of the 139 contact sheets from the book.

The exhibition functions—in the words of Magnum photographer Martin Parr—as an “epitaph to the contact sheet,” marking the end of the analog film era and the rise of digital photography.

“*Magnum Contact Sheets* provides a fascinating and surprisingly intimate survey of an aspect of the craft of the photographer... To be able to follow dozens upon dozens of the most recognized images of the 20th century backwards through the selection process gives these pictures a new immediacy and vitality. Going through the contact sheets for, say, Burri’s 1963 session with a cigar-smoking Che Guevara, or Hiroji Kubota’s series of shots of Buddhist monks praying before the extraordinary Golden Rock on the side of a cliff in Burma, or, more intimately, Elliott Erwitt’s studies of his wife and newborn baby, one experiences something of the excitement the photographers must have felt when they first trained their loupes upon these fresh-made, still-damp sheets,” said John Banville in a review of the book in *The Telegraph*.

Among the many acknowledged photographic greats included in *Magnum Contact Sheets* are Henri Cartier-Bresson, Erwitt, and Inge Morath, as well as representatives of Magnum’s latest generation, such as Jonas Bendiksen, ICP alumna Alessandra Sanguinetti, and Alec Soth, winner of ICP’s 2011 Infinity Award for Publication.

The catalogue *Magnum Contact Sheets* includes 139 contact sheets together with the accompanying final image, representing 69 photographers, as well as zoom-in details, selected photographs, press cards, notebooks, and spreads from contemporary publications, including *LIFE* and *Picture Post*. Further insight into each contact sheet is provided by texts written by the photographers themselves or by experts chosen by members’ estates. Among Lubben’s previous books are *Susan Meiselas: In History* and *Amelia Earhart: Image and Icon*, both published by ICP/Steidl.

This exhibition was made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. It was produced in association with Magnum Photos.



A book signing for *Magnum Contact Sheets* with Lubben and the photographers will take place at 6 pm on December 16, 2011 at the ICP Store, located at 1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street.

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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