



International Center of Photography

media release

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### **The International Center of Photography *Mexican Suitcase* Catalogue Earns Top AAM Design Award**

*Publication awarded the Frances Smyth-Ravenel Prize for Excellence in Publication Design*

New York, NY (July 7, 2011) — The Mexican Suitcase catalogue, which accompanied the exhibition on view at the International Center of Photography from September 24, 2010–May 8, 2011, has been recognized by the American Association of Museums (AAM) in its 2011 Museum Publications Design Competition.

The publication was awarded the Frances Smyth-Ravenel Prize for Excellence in Publication Design. AAM honorees were selected from hundreds of entrants in the fields of exhibit design, publications, technological achievement, and more.

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 edited *The Mexican Suitcase* and organized the exhibition. “The material contained in the Mexican Suitcase documents a turning point in the history of photojournalism.”

#### **Publication Details:**

*The Mexican Suitcase*

The International Center of Photography, New York, NY

Designed by Martin Venezky/Appetite Engineers

Edited by Cynthia Young

Director of Publications: Philomena Mariani

Managing Editor: Eli J. Spindel

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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](http://www.icp.org) for more information.

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