

## Press Release Exhibition

Saul Leiter, *United, San Carlo Restaurant at 3rd Avenue and 10th Street, 1950*  
© Saul Leiter Foundation. Courtesy of Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York.



**COLLECTION**  
*150 photographs  
from the Bachelot  
collection*

From 7 October 2022  
till 15 January 2023

Curator: Sam Stourdzé

This autumn, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is pleased to present its exhibition **COLLECTION**, which showcases **Florence and Damien Bachelot's photograph collection**.

The exhibition will display a unique set of almost **150 photographs** covering a century of image history, within the intimacy of the human condition. From **Brassaï** to **Sabine Weiss** and from **Diane Arbus** to **Mitch Epstein**, the itinerary provides an in-depth reading of the history of photography, focusing on human beings and their relationship to their environment; here the vibrancy of cities and the solitary poetry of portraits are juxtaposed.

The exhibition offers a dual perspective: the personal narrative of the collectors, Florence and Damien Bachelot, throughout 20 years of coherent acquisition, and that of its curator, Sam Stourdzé, through a selection of prints in which the photographer's eye acts as a seismograph of historical events and intimate narratives.

The exhibition covers the two great transatlantic traditions: from early 20th-century "humanist" photography to American street photography. **Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Doisneau** and **Willy Ronis** join **Dave Heath, Helen Levitt** and **Robert Frank**.

An extraordinary set of almost 40 original prints by **Saul Leiter's** bear witness to a change of direction – along with the transition to colour –

# VILLA MÉDICIS

towards the second half of the century, and a shift in photographic influences. The images focus on American counter-culture and the reversals of a modernist utopia.

Finally, the exhibition explores the beginnings of modern reporting, with **Gilles Caron**, up to the documentary portraits of contemporary photographers such as **Luc Delahaye, Mohamed Bourouissa, Véronique Ellena and Laura Henno**. The ancient cistern of Villa Medici will host a focus on the work of Laura Henno, between photographs and films.

Between contrasts and connections, the Bachelot collection exhibition at Villa Medici takes a look at the history of photographic influences and examines the way in which portraits and bodies frame the city and divide up urban areas and everyday spaces in which human figures always provide the scale. It is also a portrait of the development of a couple of collectors and of a vision that combine the vintage with the contemporary.

The texts that provide the exhibition's historical and aesthetic perspective were produced by the photography historian Michel Poivert.

## **Artists featured in the exhibition:**

Diane Arbus, Édouard Boubat, Mohamed Bourouissa, Marcel Bovis, Brassai, Gilles Caron, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Philippe Chancel, Stéphane Couturier, Bruce Davidson, Luc Delahaye, Robert Doisneau, Gilles Ehrmann, Véronique Ellena, Mitch Epstein, Louis Faurer, Andreas Feiniger, Robert Frank, Paul Fusco, Luigi Ghirri, Mario Giacomelli, Nan Goldin, Paul Graham, Harry Gruyaert, Dave Heath, Laura Henno, René Jacques, Ray K. Metzker, Nadav Kander, Chris Killip, François Kollar, Josef Koudelka, Dorothea Lange, Saul Leiter, Christian Lemaire, Leon Levinstein, Helen Levitt, Vivian Maier, Susan Meiselas, Joel Meyerowitz, Janine Niepce, Willy Ronis, Joy Judith Ross, Arthur S. Siegel, Eugene Smith, Mike Smith, Paul Strand, and Sabine Weiss.

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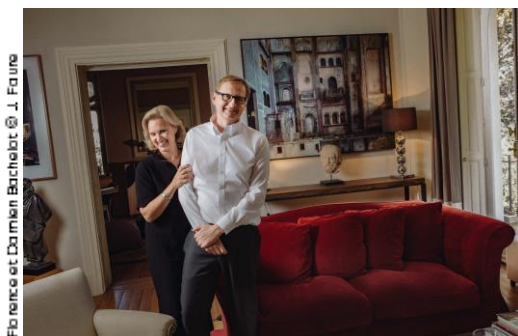
## **CATALOGUE**

**Maison CF (Clémentine de la Féronnière publications)** has published a catalogue to accompany the exhibition; it comprises original texts by the photography historian Michel Poivert, as well as a joint interview with Florence and Damien Bachelot and Sam Stourdzé, conducted by Michel Poivert. The catalogue can be purchased at Villa Medici.

Useful information and entry conditions will shortly be available on the [villamedici.it](http://villamedici.it) website.

[\*\*LINK FOR DOWNLOADING ROYALTY-FREE IMAGES\*\*](#)

## Notes



Florence et Damien Bachelot © J. Faure

**The Florence and Damien Bachelot collection** contains almost 1,000 photographs and constitutes one of the most important privately-owned sets of prints in France. The collection's guiding thread was the search for outstanding items, in terms of their quality or their history (rare and vintage prints, limited editions, etc.).

The set's favourite themes cover "humanist", documentary and social photography from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century up to contemporary times; it is particularly distinguished by its unique collection of around forty prints by Saul Leiter. For Florence and Damien Bachelot, collecting constitutes a commitment to the photographic medium in all its physicality and singularity, as well as a means of supporting contemporary – especially French – young photographers.

Begun in the early 2000s at the initiative of four associates – Damien Bachelot, Claude Garnier, Jean-Pascal Mahieu and Yves Hervieu-Cause – in the form of the Aforge group's corporate collection, the photography collection became a family-only project when it was bought by Damien and Florence Bachelot in 2009. The collection was built and expanded with support from specialists who accompanied Florence and Damien Bachelot in the process, notably the exhibition's curator Sam Stourdzé and the gallery owner Howard Greenberg. The works it contains are regularly on loan or display in dedicated exhibitions, and also featured in publications, notably those published by Maison CF (Clémentine de la Féronnière publications). In 2023, as part of the internationally-renowned photography festival *Rencontres de la photographie*, the Réattu museum in Arles will host an exhibition devoted to portraits from the Bachelot collection.

Further information: [collection-bachelot.com](http://collection-bachelot.com)  
Publications: [maisoncf.fr](http://maisoncf.fr)

Sam Stourdzé © Daniele Molajoli



**Sam Stourdzé** is an exhibition curator and a specialist in the contemporary image and the relationship between art, photography and film. A former Fellow of the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici (2007, Film Department), he has been its Director since 2020. He was previously Director of the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne, Switzerland (2010 – 2014), and of the *Rencontres d'Arles* (2014 – 2020).

# VILLA MÉDICIS



Founded in 1666 by Louis XIV, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is a French establishment located, since 1803, in the Villa Medici, a 16th-century villa surrounded by a seventeen-acre park, on Mount Pincio, in the heart of Rome.

A national public institution under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, the

French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici fulfils three complementary missions: to welcome high-level artists, creators and art historians in residence for one-year stays or shorter; to set up a cultural and artistic programme that includes all fields of the arts and creation and is aimed at a broad audience; to conserve, restore, study, and make its architectural and landscape heritage, as well as its art collections, known to the public.

The French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici is directed by Sam Stourdzé.

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