An experimental exhibition shows the work of the great artist on newsprint

Robert Frank (b. 1924, Zurich) is considered the inventor of street photography. With his method of sequencing and composing pictures in intuitive series beyond the traditional photographic essay, he has developed new forms of expression within the medium of photography.

Despite Frank’s significant influence on photographers of his own and subsequent generations, there are only few exhibitions of his work. This traveling exhibition to be chiefly shown at universities and schools, seeks to remedy that. Frank’s original silver gelatin prints are today fragile objects, and most are not on public display. Galleries, museums and investors lend Frank originals only under limited conditions of display with exorbitant insurance costs, which makes organizing traditional exhibitions very difficult.

Conceived by Robert Frank and Gerhard Steidl, this exhibition shows Frank’s work in photos, books and films in a direct accessible manner. Frank’s images are printed on sheets of newsprint and hung on the walls or from the ceiling. Frank’s films and videos, which are so often overshadowed by his photographic work are shown on small portable “beamers”, projecting them directly onto the walls. Each exhibition is to be disposed of after display, thus circumventing the normal cycle of speculation and consumption in the art market. When the idea for this pop-up show first reached Frank in his small, crooked house in the Canadian village of Mabou, he said: “Cheap, quick, and dirty, that’s how I like it!”
In Houston the exhibition will be on view at Houston Center for Photography. The exhibition’s next venue will be Blue Sky Gallery, Portland (January 5–February 25, 2018) before continuing to visit over 30 further cities around the globe.

The unconventional catalogue for the exhibition is a special edition of the renowned German daily newspaper the Süddeutsche Zeitung — following its original design and format, and printed on recycled newsprint.

Houston Center for Photography
December 9, 2017–January 5, 2018
1441 W. Alabama
Houston, TX 77006

Opening times:
Wednesday and Thursday: 11am–9pm
Friday: 11am–5pm
Saturday and Sunday: 11am–7pm
Free admission

Opening Reception: Friday, December 8, 2017, 5.30pm–8pm

Previous exhibition venues:
Tisch Library, Tufts University, Boston (7.10.–5.11.17)
IMS Paulista, Sao Paulo (19.9.17–end of November 2017)
KIIITO, Kobe (2.9.17–22.9.17)
Art Institute of Chicago (12.5.–26.5.17)
Museum der Moderne, Salzburg (4.12.16–26.3.17)
UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism / Worth Ryder Gallery (18.2.–3.3.17)
Tokyo University of the Arts / The Chinretsukan Gallery (10.11.–24.11.16)
Kunsthalle Ziegelhütte, Appenzell (15.5.–30.10.16)
Bergamot Station / UCLA, Santa Monica (25.3.–13.4.16)
Halle 14, Leipzig (16.3.–10.4.16)
NYU/Tisch School of the Arts (29.1.–11.2.16)
Fotoistanbul, Istanbul (9.10.–8.11.15)
Museum Folkwang, Essen (17.4.–16.8.15)
Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich (22.11.–21.12.14)
NSDAC University, Halifax (5.9.–12.9.14)

Books

Featured books:

Sarah Greenough, Looking In Robert Frank The Americans
Peter Galassi, In America

Books by Robert Frank:
Black White and Things
Come Again
Household Inventory Record
Leon of Juda
London / Wales
Me and My Brother
New York to Nova Scotia
Pangnirtung
Paris
Park/Sleep
Partida
Peru
Portfolio: 40 Photos 1941/1946
Seven Stories
Storylines
Tal uf Tal ab
The Americans
The Lines of My Hand
Valencia 1952
Was haben wir gesehen / What have we seen
You Would
Zero Mostel reads a Book
Films by Robert Frank on view:

*Fernando* (2008), 12 min.
*Flamingo* (1996), 10 mins (English and Swedish version, each 5 min.)
*Fragments* (2000), 10 min.
*I Remember* (1998), 5 min.
*Me and My Brother* (1968), 85 min.
*Moving Pictures* (1994), 17 min.
*Pull My Daisy* (1959), 28 min.
*S–8 Stones Footage From Exile on Main Street* (1971), 8 min.
*Tunnel* (2005), 4 min.
Images for PR and press

Caption:

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Caption:
Robert Frank in Mabou, Canada, 2009, from the book *Household Inventory Record* (2013) © Robert Frank
Household_2

Caption:
Frank’s wife June Leaf in Mabou, Canada, 2009, from the book *Household Inventory Record* (2013) © Robert Frank

Tunnel_01

Caption:
Robert Frank *Tunnel* (video still), color and black & white, 4 minutes, 2005 © Robert Frank

Halifax_2

Caption:
»My whole life is in this newspaper.« Robert Frank about the newspaper catalogue *Robert Frank: Books and Films* © Gerhard Steidl

Goettingen

Caption:
Robert Frank checking the cover of the Steidl edition of *The Americans* in Göttingen, 2007 © Gerhard Steidl

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