“THE ANALOGUE YEARS”: AFP’S FIRST PHOTO AUCTION

AFP is launching its first-ever auction with some 200 photos from its analogue photography collection, offering a rare opportunity to buy unique prints capturing important historic moments.

“The Analogue Years” live auction, hosted by one of the world’s leading news agencies, will take place Sunday, October 3, 2021, under the direction of DIGARD AUCTION, at the we are_ event space in Paris. It will also be held live online at Digard.com (via the French platform Drouot) and on the American platform Artsy.net on October 3. There will be two weeks of open bidding available ahead of the auction at Artsy.net.

“Some of the photos on sale are real photographic ‘surprises’, while others are symbolic moments that made international news in the last century. Several have become cult classics,” says Marielle Eudes, AFP’s director of photography. “They bear witness not only to the richness of the Agency’s documents from a historical perspective, but also to an exceptional photographic quality that is little known to the general public.”

The selection on sale is made up of photographs illustrating current events from 1944 – the founding year of AFP – up to 1998, when the Agency started rolling out digital photography.

Some of the photographs will be exhibited ahead the sale at several venues across Paris ahead of the auction:
- The “Made in the USA” works by Eric Schwab, an AFP photographer from the late 1940s, will be on display at the Fisheye Gallery from 3 September to 3 October (2, rue de l’Hôpital Saint-Louis, 75010).
- Another 40 photographs will be on display at the we are_ event space from September 13 to October 3 (73, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré, 75008)
- A large collection of photographs to be offered at the auction will be on display at Galerie 75FAUBOURG from October 1 to 3 (75, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75008)

Photos for sale at “The Analogue Years” include:
- News photos, including from the Liberation of Paris to the release of Mandela
- Scoops like the photographs of Che Guevara’s death
- Spot news pictures, including from the robbery of the Crédit de la Bourse
- Scenes from daily life
- Celebrity photos, from Salvador Dali to James Baldwin
- Signature images with a focus on the photographs of Eric Schwab, one of the first photographers to work for AFP after the agency’s founding in 1944

Each photograph, in black and white or colour, will be offered as a unique “special edition” copy:
- On analogue baryta paper for manual prints made from original black and white negatives,
- On analogue and digital baryta paper for prints made from digital files from scans of black and white negatives,
- On chromogenic paper for prints made from digital files of scans of colour originals.

The prints will be signed and stamped by AFP, accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

AFP’s photographic collection includes more than 15 million photos. The “analogue” collection consists of six million images (from the 1920s to 1997), including 350,000 glass plate negatives.

Awarded the highest international photojournalism prizes each year, and recognised for its quality and diversity, AFP’s photo production is used daily by the world’s leading media.

The live auction on October 3 will take place at we are_, 74 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré, 75008 Paris. Founded in 2020 by entrepreneur Éric Newton, we are_ is a hybrid space that seeks to foster creativity and innovation.

The auction catalogue, in French and English, will be available to consult and purchase on the digard.com website.

The partners for this event:

About AFP

AFP is a leading global news agency, providing 24/7 coverage of world news across all fields. Benefitting from the strength of a network of 450 photographers spread across the world, AFP’s International Photo Service, recognised by its peers for its quality and its diversity, is rewarded each year at the biggest international awards in photojournalism. Built on the expertise of its photographers and photo editors, AFP’s photo offer is complemented by the production of more than 70 partner agencies.

About DIGARD AUCTION

DIGARD AUCTION is an international auction house created more than twenty years ago by Marielle DIGARD, specialized in contemporary and urban art with its different departments: CONTEMPORARY ART, URBAN ART, EDITIONS and PHOTOGRAPHY. Recognized for its expertise, precursor of Urban Art sales including Banksy, it has continued to develop with its offices in Paris and New York, and has taken its place among the major auction houses in the creations of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries with a client base of international collectors.

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DIGARD - Marielle Digard – presse@digard.com
26 August 1944 – Paris, France – A Parisian woman kisses General de Gaulle, during a parade on the Champs-Elysees after Paris’ liberation. © AFP

1947 – New York, United States – Louis Armstrong playing in his dressing room for a little boy before performing in a jazz cabaret in New York. © Eric Schwab / AFP
30 April 1955 – Paris, France – Salvador Dali painting a rhinoceros with Vermeer’s famous painting “The Lacemaker” at the Vincennes Zoo. © AFP

31 January 1974 – Paris, France – At 2.15 p.m., a robbery with hostage taking took place at the Crédit de la Bourse in Paris. The criminals run away with the loot. A customer is wounded during the shooting. © Daniel Janin / AFP

27 July 1973 – Maputo, Mozambique – Training of the Portuguese army special forces at Dondo military camp of Maputo during the Mozambican War of Independence. © Claude Juvenal / AFP
6 November 1979 – Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Royaume Uni – James Baldwin, at home in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, southern France.
© Ralph Gatti / AFP
10 July 1977 – France – Dutch cyclist Gerben Karstens in front of the pack, during the 8th stage of the 64th Tour de France cycling race, between Angers and Lorient. © Daniel Janin / AFP
29 June 1986 – Mexico, Mexico – Diego Maradona holding the World Cup after Argentina’s victory over West Germany in the finals at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City. © AFP
06 April 1988 – Kowloon, Hong Kong – An airliner flies over the ageing buildings of Kowloon city, near Kai Tak international airport. © Tommy Cheng / AFP
17 December 1992 – Baidoa, Somalia – A Somali child runs towards a relief convoy as a French legionnaire provides security for the transport of food supplies. © Joël Robine / AFP