



Robert Rauschenberg, 1961-1967 © Dennis Hopper - The Hopper Art Trust

**A "HISTORY" OF  
PHOTOGRAPHY**  
AGNES B. COLLECTION

DECEMBER 8, 2023 – APRIL 7, 2024

**PRESS KIT**

La  
Fab.

6-10, place Jean-Michel Basquiat, Paris 13e

# A "HISTORY" OF PHOTOGRAPHY

## AGNES B. COLLECTION

December 8, 2023 - April 7, 2024

Opening on Thursday, December 7  
6 - 9 pm

**agnès b. presents the seventh season of her collection at La Fab dedicated to the history of photography.**

Over the years, agnès b. has built up a significant collection of contemporary art, first presented at the Abattoirs de Toulouse in 2004, though even before this it was the richness of her photographic holdings which became the subject of two exhibitions, in 2000 at the National Center for Photography in Paris and in 2002 at the Pavillon des Arts in Nogent-sur-Marne. In 2008, the prestigious C/O Berlin hosted an exhibition of her photographs, in parallel with the publication of a monograph of her collection by JP Ringier Editions.

The agnès b. collection, comprising more than 7,000 works, shows no particular preference for any medium; Agnès b. collects paintings, sculptures, installations, and videos, though with 2,500 documented prints it is evident that photography holds a significant place.

**In 2000, agnès b. wrote:**

*"... If it is a collection, it resembles more of a free assembly than a deliberate construction. I could even say that the photos imposed themselves one by one, the first calling upon the next. Perhaps each photo, by its very own nature, demanded another one as beautiful, as moving, or as essential as itself. This is the common thread... I consider myself an amateur in both senses of the word, and it's a beautiful word. I claim eclecticism and refuse to prioritize one thing over another – each has its place. What matters is “the instantaneous”, the photographer, in a spiritual gesture chooses the moment in his life, in life, that which strikes him, that which he chooses to say...and with the same gesture, he can also create fictions, trick us for pleasure, recount untruths, serious or trivial – What freedom! And that's why I love photography."*

**June 2000, agnès b.**

In this exhibition, agnès b. takes the viewer on a chronological journey, starting with about a dozen chronophotographic silver gelatin negative plates, albumen prints, negative papers, sepia photographs, silver gelatin prints, dating from the second half of the 19th century demonstrating the photographer and collector's attachment to black and white prints up until the 80s before the explosion of color photography in the 90s. This chronological approach does not hinder the 'free assembly' that agnès b. fondly refers to as 'elective affinities'.

Some of the featured artists include **Giacomo Caneva, Eugène Atget, Jacques Henri Lartigue, Man Ray, Martin Guisinde, Nicephore Niepce, Willy Ronis, Brassai, Man Ray, Walker Evans, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Berenice Abbott, Helen Levitt, Weegee, Saul Leiter, Seydou Keita, Lucien Hervé, Kenneth Anger, Aaron Siskind, Malick Sidibé, Jonas Mekas, Andre Kertesz, Nan Goldin, Maripol, David Bailey, Sigmar Polke, Mark Cohen, Martin Parr, Roman Signer, Massimo Vitali, Beat Streuli, August Sander, Richard Billingham, Ryan McGinley, William Eggleston, Georges Tony Stoll.**

## **ANNEX** **agnès b. and photography**

In 1984, **agnès b.** inaugurates the **Galerie du Jour**. It was on the advice of her friend Felix Guattari that she exhibited there, as the gallery's first photography exhibition, a personal collection of prints by **Martine Barrat**.

Subsequently, the **Galerie du Jour** showcased photographers such as **Martin Parr**, **Nan Goldin** and **Ryan McGinley** among others, with **agnès b.** being the first gallerist to represent their work in France.

And then there was agnès b's immediate commitment to the **Paris Photo fair**; the gallerist supported this Parisian event dedicated to photography from its very inception.

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### **libération, 19th November 1997**

**A "FIAC" OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN PARIS. PARIS PHOTO, FIRST EDITION, HOPESTO BECOME A REFERENCE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY IN EUROPE. PARIS PHOTO 1997, AN INTERNATIONAL SALON FOR EUROPEAN PHOTOGRAPHY...**

#### *A Fairy Tale*

*...Once upon a time, there was a young Dutch man of charming appearance who longed to create a photography fair in Paris. He knocked on many doors, but all remained closed...*

*One day, at long last, a door opened.*

*"What do you want, young man?"*

*He described his project...*

*"But what a great idea!" she cried*

*They got along so well that she lent him part of the sum he required to carry his project through.*

**agnès**

**PHOTOGRAPHY  
IN THE AGNÈS B. COLLECTION**



Victor Hugo, 1852  
© Auguste Vacquerie et Charles Hugo



Sarah Bernhardt dans son cercueil, 1880.

© Anonyme



Sidewalk  
Paris, 1929  
© André Kertész,





Jo le trompettiste et sa femme à Harlem, 1935

Henri Cartier-Bresson

© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson/Magnum Photos



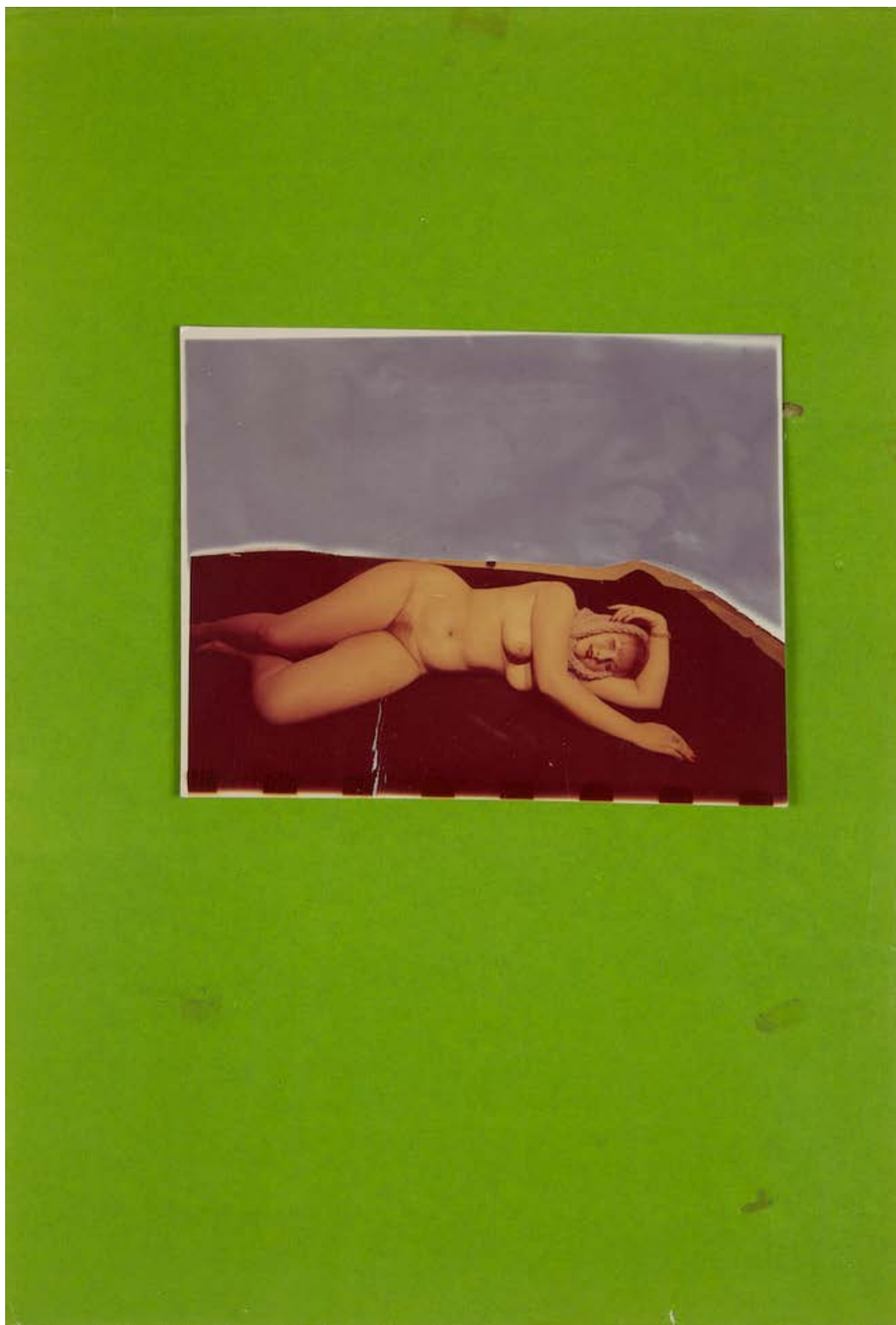
New York, 1940  
Helen Levitt  
© Film Documents LLC



André Soubeyran as Pierrot from Rabbit's Moon, 1950  
© Kenneth Anger



Robert Rauschenberg, 1961-1967  
© Dennis Hopper - The Hopper Art Trust



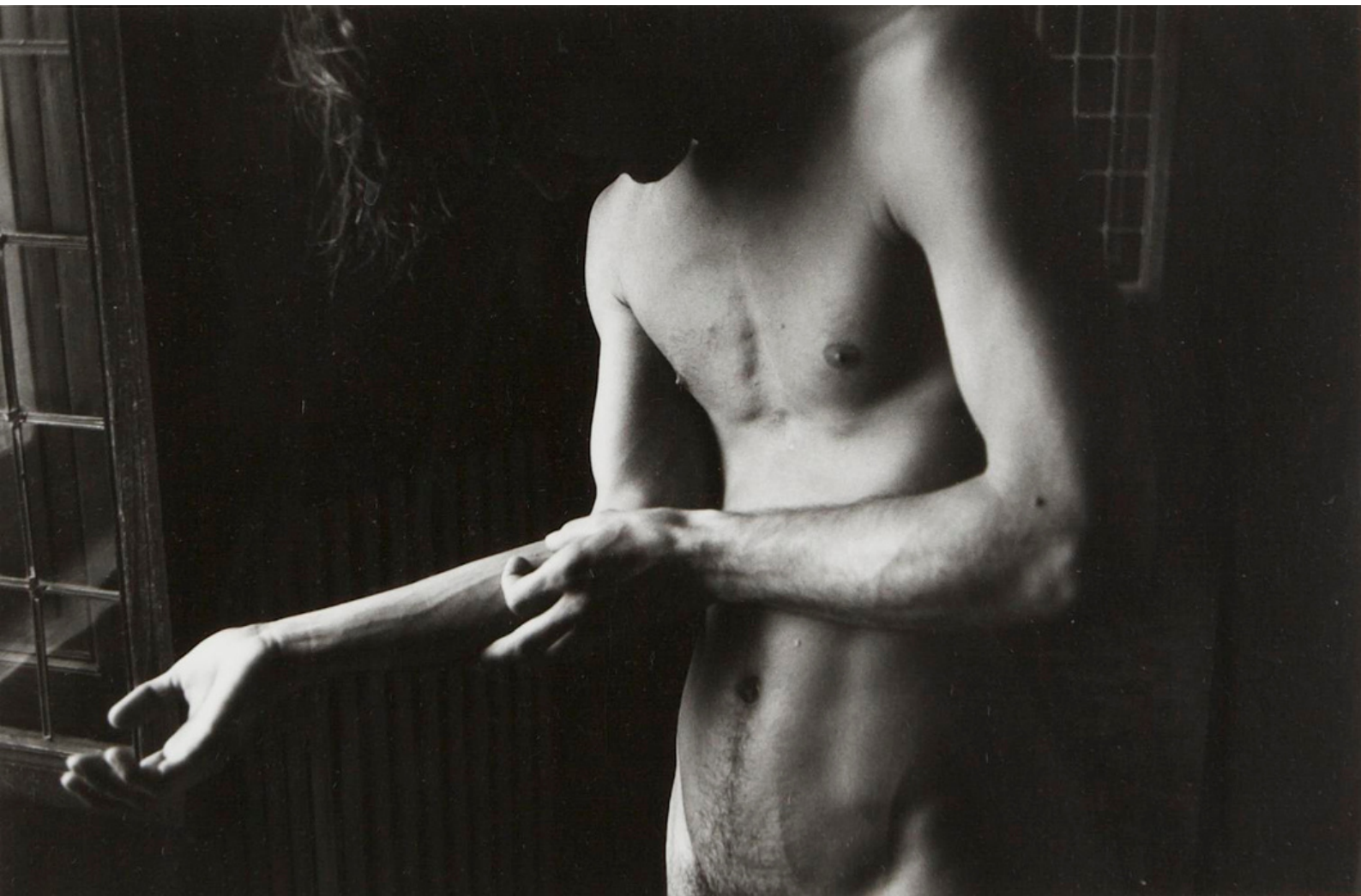
Sans titre de la série "Luriki"

1971-1985

© Boris Mikhaïlov



Untitled (light bulb on plywood ceiling)  
Greenwood, MS, 1973  
William Eggleston  
© Eggleston Artistic Trust  
Courtesy Eggleston Artistic Trust and David Zwirner



Thierry, 1979  
© Hervé Guibert



Sans titre (Australie), 1980

Sigmar Polke

© The Estate of Sigmar Polke, Cologne / Adagp, Paris, 2023



GB. England. Série "Signs of the Times", "But in the 1960's this was really tiptop fashion.", 1992

© Martin Parr





Untitled, 1997  
© David Lynch



Jakes' eyes, 2003  
© Ryan McGinley



Robert Rauschenberg, 1961-1967 © Dennis Hopper - The Hopper Art Trust

une "histoire"  
CHRONOLOGIQUE de la  
photographie -----  
dans la collection d'agnès

8 DÉCEMBRE 2023 → 7 AVRIL 2024

galerie du jour agnès b.

place Jean Michel Basquiat  
Paris 13<sup>e</sup> métro BNF



# ABOUT LA FAB.






La Fab., the place of the agnès b. endowment fund, opened in January 2020 in the heart of a new Paris, place Jean-Michel Basquiat in the 13th arrondissement.

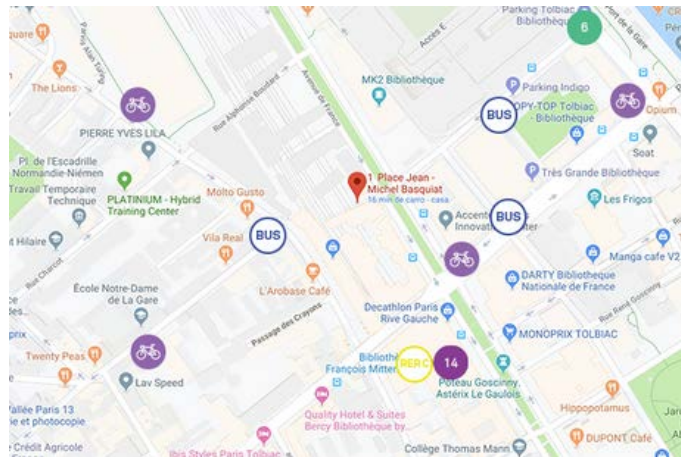
The Fab. houses the Librairie du Jour and two exhibition spaces: a space dedicated to the agnès b. contemporary art collection and the Galerie du Jour. The layout was designed by agnès b. in collaboration with architect Augustin Rosenstiehl.

## ACCESS

**La Fab.** - Place Jean-Michel Basquiat - Paris 13e

Wednesday - Saturday 11am - 7pm / Sunday 2pm - 7pm

-  Ligne 14  
Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Ligne 6  
Chevaleret
-  RER C  
Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Lignes 25, 61, 62, 71, 89, 325
-  Vélib  
rue Paul Casals, rue du Chevaleret



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### INFORMATION AND TICKETS

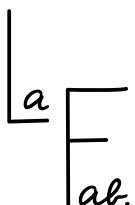
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### COMMUNICATION

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### AGNES B. COLLECTION

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**LET'S BE FRIENDS !!**

