

Robert Doisneau 1912 -1994

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1912 - Born April 14 in Gentilly, in the Paris suburbs, son of a roofer (couvreur).

1919 – Death of his mother. Doisneau will live with a stepmother he dislikes.

1926-29 - Studies at Ecole Estienne in Paris and receives a diploma as an engraver-lithographer.

1930 – Typographic draftsman and early training as assistant pharmaceutical ad photographer at the Ulman Workshop. First personal photographs.

1931 - Assistant to photographer and photographic publisher André Vigneau.

1932 - Images of a flea market are the first photographs sold to the daily publication, L'Excelsior. Marries Pierette, they will have two daughters, Annetee and Francine.

1934-38 - Works as an industrial photographer at the Renault factories in Billancourt, France.

1939 – Fired from Renault for repeated lateness. Introduced to the founder of the Rapho agency, Charles Rado. Begins working as an independent photographer.

1942 - Meets renowned French typographer Maximilien Vox for whom he works. Helps out in the Resistance by fabricating false identity documents.

1945 - Works for the first time with Pierre Betz, editor for the magazine Le Point. Joins Communist party. Introduced to the Swiss Surrealist poet and novelist Blaise Cendrars in Aix-en-Provence. Meets photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, a founding member of the photographic agency Magnum Photos.

1946 - Raymond Grosset re-establishes the Rapho, which had closed during World War II. Doisneau would go on to work with the agency for nearly 50 years. Works with the weekly publication, Action. Travels to Yugoslavia.

1947 - Introduced to Bordeaux shipper and poet Robert Giraud as well as the French poet Jacques Prévert. Receives Kodak prize for his photographic work.

1949-51 – Publishes his first book with a text by Blaise Cendrars, La Banlieue de Paris (1949). Receives contract with Vogue magazine.

1954 - Publication of Les Parisiens tels qu'ils sont, texts by Robert Giraud and Maurice Ragon.

1955 - Publication of Instantanés parisiens, preface by Blaise Cendrars and Albert Plécy.

1956 – Niepce photographic prize.

1960 - Visits the United States to work in Hollywood and Palm Springs.

1967 - Travels to work in the USSR – '50 years of Soviet realisations' - to work for the magazine Working Life.

1973 – Film by François Porcille, Le Paris de Robert Doisneau.

1975 - Guest at the photographic Meetings of Arles.

1979 - Publication of Trois secondes d'éternité, with his own text.

1983 - Introduced to French actress and producer Sabine Azéma, who would later make the film Bonjour Monsieur Doisneau (1992). Grand national prize for photography.

1984 - Responsible for the topic of "New Urban Landscapes" for the photographic mission of DATAR.

1985 - Produces portraits of personalities for the magazine Femme.

1993 - Doisneau des villes et Doisneau des champs, film by Patrick Cazals (for FR3, French regional television).

1994 - Dies April 1 in Paris.