

## BIOGRAPHY

Artist

**Léon Herschtritt**

Born in Paris in 1936, Léon Herschtritt became a photographer at the age of 20, after classical studies and a brief time at the Ecole nationale de photographie. In 1960, he was the youngest winner of the Prix Niépce, awarded by the association Gens d'images, for his story Les Gosses d'Algérie, made during his military service. He worked as a photojournalist for the press and became an independent reporter in 1962. He photographed his subjects all over the world with a humanistic and social approach. In 1963, he brought back several thousand images from a commissioned trip to Africa, exhibited at the Musée de l'Homme and integrated in the photographic library of the Ministry of Cooperation. In

1967, his work was included in the exhibition Tendances de la jeune photographie française at the Bibliothèque Nationale. In the late 60s, he worked as a filmmaker, and directed several documentaries for the cinema and television, and progressively abandoned his work as a photographer. From 1976 to 1993, he became an antiques dealer, expert in photography and old cameras and opened the first gallery devoted to photography in the Saint-Ouen flea market, which was then transferred in 1998 to the Saint Germain des Près district. In recent years, the photographer has been rediscovering his archives. His black and white documentaries, celebrity portraits and testimonies of the Paris in the 60s, the war in Algeria or the first Christmas of the Berlin Wall, have been the subject of numerous exhibitions, especially at the Rencontres d'Arles in 2009.

Léon Herschtritt died on 21 novembre 2020.

Solo  
exhibitions**2017**

Les Amoureux de Paris, Hôtel & Spa La Belle Juliette, avec la Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris

**2016**

Léon Herschtritt, Photographe à vie !, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris  
La fin d'un monde, Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône, France

**2014**

Noël à Berlin, 1961, Berlin Wall Memorial, Berlin, Germany

**2013**

Paris des années 60, Foosaner Art Museum, Melbourne, Florida, USA

**2012**

Retrospective, Médiathèque, Mâcon, France

**2011**

Carte Blanche, Galerie Seine 51, Paris, France

**2009**

Noël à Berlin, Le Mur 1961, Galerie Seine 51, Paris, France

Léon Herschtritt, Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France

Institut français, Bonn, Germany

Institut français, Dresden, Germany

La photographie humaniste, Léon Herschtritt's retrospective, Grenoble, France

Portraits connus et inconnus des années 60, Pavillon de la caserne de Bonne,

Grenoble, France

**2008**

Noël à Berlin, Le Mur 1961, Abgeordnetenhaus de Berlin (Parlement de Berlin)  
Paris 60', Institut français de Berlin  
Expositions réalisées par ParisBerlin>Fotogroup & L'agence La Collection dans le cadre du Mois européen de la photographie (double exposition «Jamais le même regard»).

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**Group  
exhibitions**
**2017**

Scènes de Vie(s)-Lebensszenen, Fotohaus Paris Berlin, Arles, France

**2016**

Aipad Photography Show, avec la Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, New York

**2014**

Permanent collective exhibition on the Berlin wall, Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer (Memorial), Berlin

**2010**

55 ans de photographie à travers le Prix Niépce, Le Musée du Montparnasse / Gens d'images, Paris

**2008**

Mai 68, Cosmos Galerie, Paris, France

**2007**

Réalités, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France

**2006**

La photographie humaniste, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France

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**Monographs &  
major catalogues**

Die Mauer, Berlin 1961, Léon Herschtritt, foreword by Walter Momper (Bourgmestre-gouverneur of Berlin from 1989 to 1991), 2009, La Collection, Paris.

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**Awards**

Prix Nadar Gens d'images for his book Au hasard des femmes (1966)

Prix Niépce for the report Les gosses d'Algérie (1960)