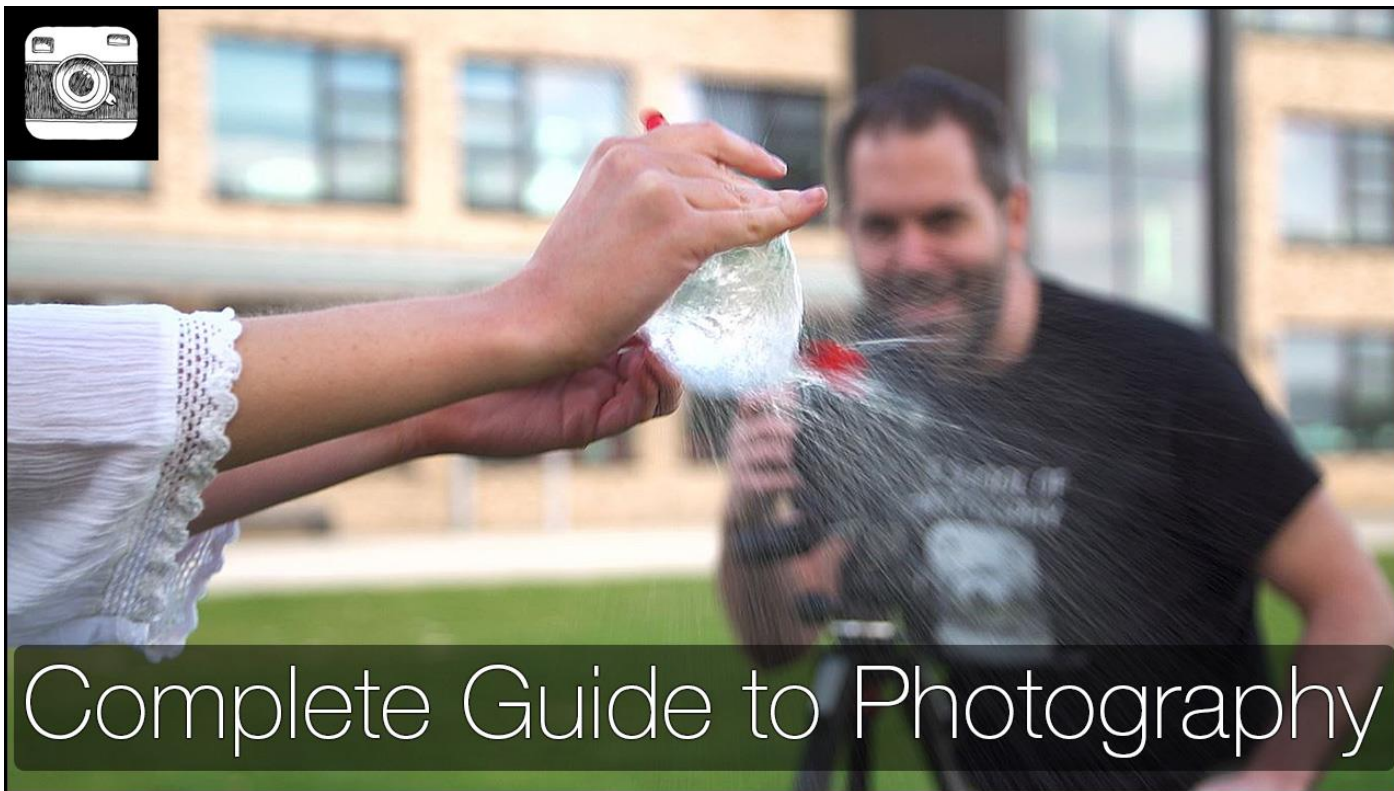




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## Henri Cartier-Bresson – Fact Sheet

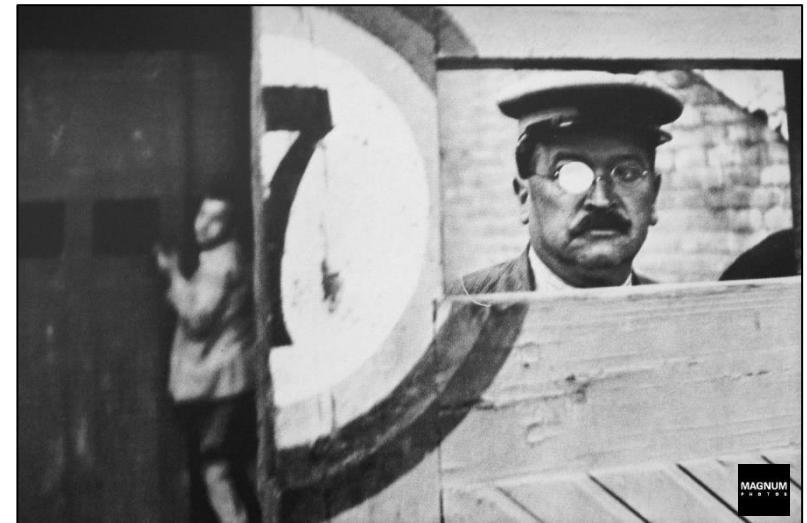
This presentation has been made to accompany the [video](#).

### Early Cartier-Bresson

- 1908 – 2004. French
- Son of a wealthy and influential French family.
- Spent much of his youth absorbing the Bohemian culture in Paris.
- In 1927 he studied fine art painting and in particular he was interested in surrealist art.
- Whilst developing his art he discovered photography and made the new Leica 35mm camera his tool of choice.
- From 1932-35 he started to create surrealist photography and gained a reputation as a fine art photographer.



Trieste, 1933



Arènes de Valence,  
1933



# Henri Cartier-Bresson



Leica 35mm camera, 1930's

# Henri Cartier-Bresson

Cartier-Bresson's early surrealist photography



Trieste, 1933





# Henri Cartier-Bresson

Cartier-Bresson's early surrealist photography



Arènes de Valence, 1933

# Henri Cartier-Bresson

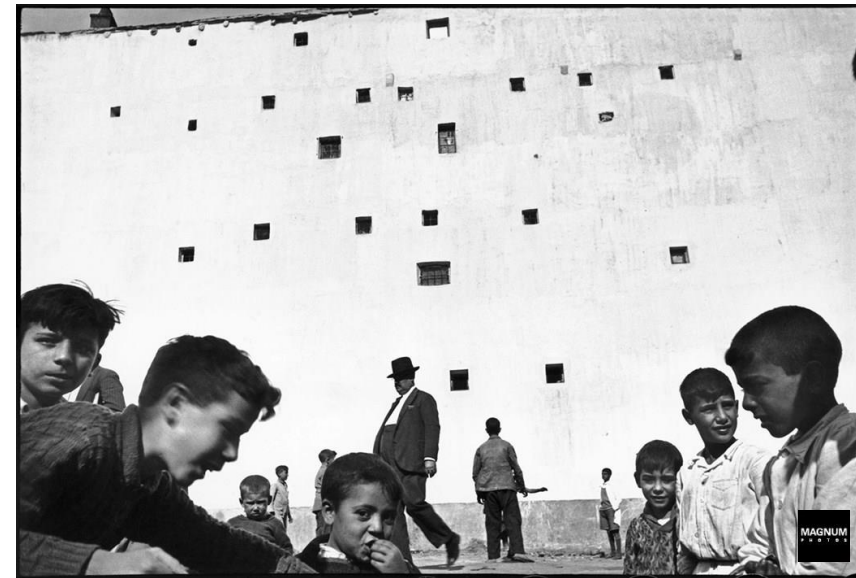
- In 1934 he was introduced to the Photojournalist Robert Capa. Capa saw that the genius of Cartier-Bresson's work was less in what he photographed and more about where he placed himself to photograph it, incorporating peculiarly backgrounds and surroundings which created interesting compositions.
- Capa urged Cartier-Bresson to come away from fine art and into the booming field of news photography. "Keep surrealism in your little heart, my dear," he recalled Capa advising him. "Don't fidget. Get moving!"

Robert Capa.

Federico Borrell Garcia, a Spanish Republican militiaman, falls to his death on September 5, 1936



Cartier-Bresson. Madrid, Spain, 1933





# Henri Cartier-Bresson

In 1937, Cartier-Bresson joined the staff of *Ce Soir*, a Communist daily paper, and was sent to England to cover the coronation of King George VI. Instead of photographing the Coronation he decided to turn his lens away document the attending crowds. While the eyes of the nation was on the Coronation, the eyes of Cartier-Bresson was on the nation. He found the British people much more of an interesting subject to photograph than the pomp of the coronation.



# Henri Cartier-Bresson



Coronation of King George VI, 12 May 1937



# The Decisive Moment

Cartier-Bresson developed his own recipe for photographic success which he published in a book called 'The Decisive Moment'. If you seize a fleeting moment when form, line, light and content are arranged perfectly within the frame, then a single picture becomes a story in itself. The Decisive Moment of that particular time.



Study the composition on this image

Boat, Venice, Italy, 1954

# The Decisive Moment

Cartier-Bresson used to talk about the fleeting moment in time. His point was that you don't need to take 100 photos, you just need to take one, the fleeting moment. The fleeting moment should make you wonder what has just happened and what is just about to happen, thus forming a story in the viewer's mind.



Paris, 1969





# The Decisive Moment

A stand out style of Cartier-Bresson's images is the way he uses the scene to create this perfectly composed images. He used to say you don't need to move around. You can stay in one place, compose a scene and wait for life to appear within it.



Behind the Gare St Lazare, Paris, 1932

# Henri Cartier-Bresson



*“Photography is nothing, it’s life  
that interests me”*  
Cartier-Bresson

Alberto Giacometti



# Henri Cartier-Bresson



Paris 1954

# Henri Cartier-Bresson



Paris under the rain, august 25, 1934





# Henri Cartier-Bresson



Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee, 1977



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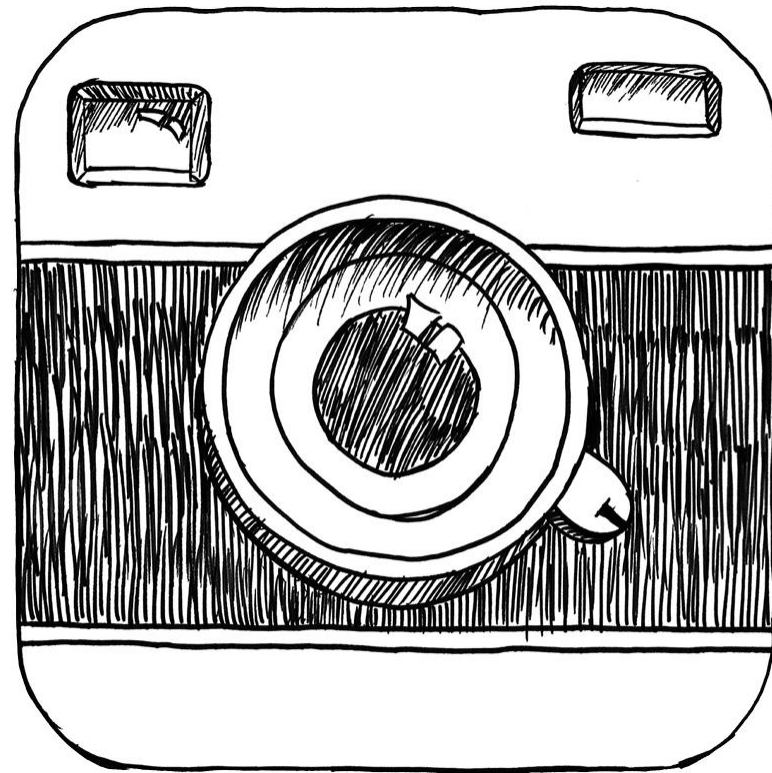
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