

ERNA OCH VICTOR HASSELBLADS
STIFTELSE

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To the Editor

This year the Hasselblad Foundation is making the eighth award of its international prize for photography, a prize, which has aroused great interest the world over. The recipient of the prize for 1988 is the French photographer Edouard Boubat. M. Boubat has become widely known primarily for the documentary pictures he has taken during assignments undertaken around the world.

In addition to its photography prize, the Hasselblad Foundation makes annual grants to promote scientific education and research in the natural sciences and in photography. These economic resources have become available thanks to the bequest of Erna and Victor Hasselblad, under the terms of which their entire estate passed to the Hasselblad Foundation.

We enclose a press release about Edouard Boubat.

For further information please contact

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Yours sincerely,

THE ERNA AND VICTOR HASSELBLAD FOUNDATION

Encl. Press Release

Press Release

May 1988

FAMOUS FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER RECEIVES HASSELBLAD FOUNDATION PRIZE

The Hasselblad Foundation of Göteborg has awarded its International Photography prize for 1988 to the famous French photographer Edouard Boubat. The prize of 200 000 francs and the Erna and Victor Hasselblad Gold Medal will be presented to Boubat at a ceremony in Göteborg on September 27.

"Boubat is a humanist and a unique creator of images that cannot be categorized", says technical director Alf Åkerman, chairman of the Hasselblad Foundation. "Boubat depicts people and scenes with warmth and his pictures speak of love, joy and human pride. Above all his news photography is outstanding in its field."

This is the eighth year the "Nobel Prize of Photography" will be awarded, and the second time to a French photographer. The other prize winners are Lennart Nilsson, Sweden, Ansel Adams, USA, Henri Cartier-Bresson, France, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Mexico, Irving Penn, USA, Ernst Haas, USA and Hiroshi Hamaya, Japan.

Edouard Boubat is 64 years old and was born in Paris. In his youth he studied reproduction and printing techniques at the Ecole Estienne in Paris. After completing his studies he was employed as a photo engraver at an art printing studio.

INFLUENCED BY THE MASTERS

“Edouard Boubat's work reproducing the work of master painters was a strong influence on his own career as a photographer”, says Alf Åkerman. "His early work in particular was influenced by various painters and his pictures are often beautiful poetic images which remind us of the way the impressionists played with light."

Boubat's first photograph has become a symbol for all of his work. It was taken in 1946 when he was 23 years old and illustrates the end of the Second World War. The photograph shows a small French girl dressed in wilted leaves.

EXHIBITED AFTER FIVE YEARS

Boubat walked around with his camera for five years before he exhibited any of his works. The exhibition was in Paris and included works of well known photographers such as Izis, Brassai and Doisneau.

The exhibition was visited by Albert Gilou, art director for the periodical "Réalités". Gilou gave his business card to Boubat and asked him to come visit the office to show him more photographs. The meeting ended with Gilou saying: " You of course speak English, as you will be traveling to the United States next week".

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL AS A REPORTER

Boubat was employed by "Réalités" from 1951 to 1968. During this time he traveled all over the world. He photographed villages and China after Mao's revolution. He made trips to the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Central Africa, the Middle East, Japan and many European countries.

Boubat is not the traditional news photographer who wants to capture the news, the sensationalism and the drama. He is instead the storyteller who wants to capture people, their behavior and their everyday life. He does this with a poetic feeling that lends a unique atmosphere to the photographs. As a rule, the face is very important in Boubat's pictures, but despite the joy there is often a hint of a certain melancholy.

THE FELLOW MAN

Boubat's special relationship with the subjects of his portraits is well known. His sense of fellowship allows him to be a participant more than just someone who is looking on through the camera lens. Boubat is quiet but intense in his work and is always careful to maintain the dignity of his models.

In recent years, Boubat has continued to work as a freelance photographer while also showing his photographs in exhibitions and publishing books.

Boubat's photographs have been shown in exhibitions all over the world including at Moderna Museet in Stockholm 1967, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris 1973, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Mexico City and Photographer's Gallery, London 1978. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris 1980, Camera Obscura, Stockholm 1981 and the Witkin Gallery, New York 1982.

Works by Boubat are included in the collections of, among others, the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Fotografiska Museet, Stockholm.

EXTENSIVE PUBLISHING

Even the publishing of Boubat's photographs is extensive. His important works include "Femmes/Women" 1972, "Mirroirs" 1973, "La Survivance" 1976 and

"Les Grands Photographes" 1982. Boubat's artistry has also been described in many international photography books and photographic publications.

SUPPORT RESEARCH

"Photography's Nobel Prize" was started thanks to the fact that Erna and Victor Hasselblad bequeathed their entire fortunes to a foundation.

According to the statutes of the foundation a photography prize and the "Erna and Victor Hasselblad Gold Medal" will be awarded to a particularly deserving individual either annually or biannually as the foundation sees fit.

The foundation will also support scientific education and research in the natural sciences as well as photography. Domestic and foreign scientists will be considered for support. Each year, many projects are funded by this program. Last year a total of six million Swedish Kronor was awarded to about 20 scientists and institutions.