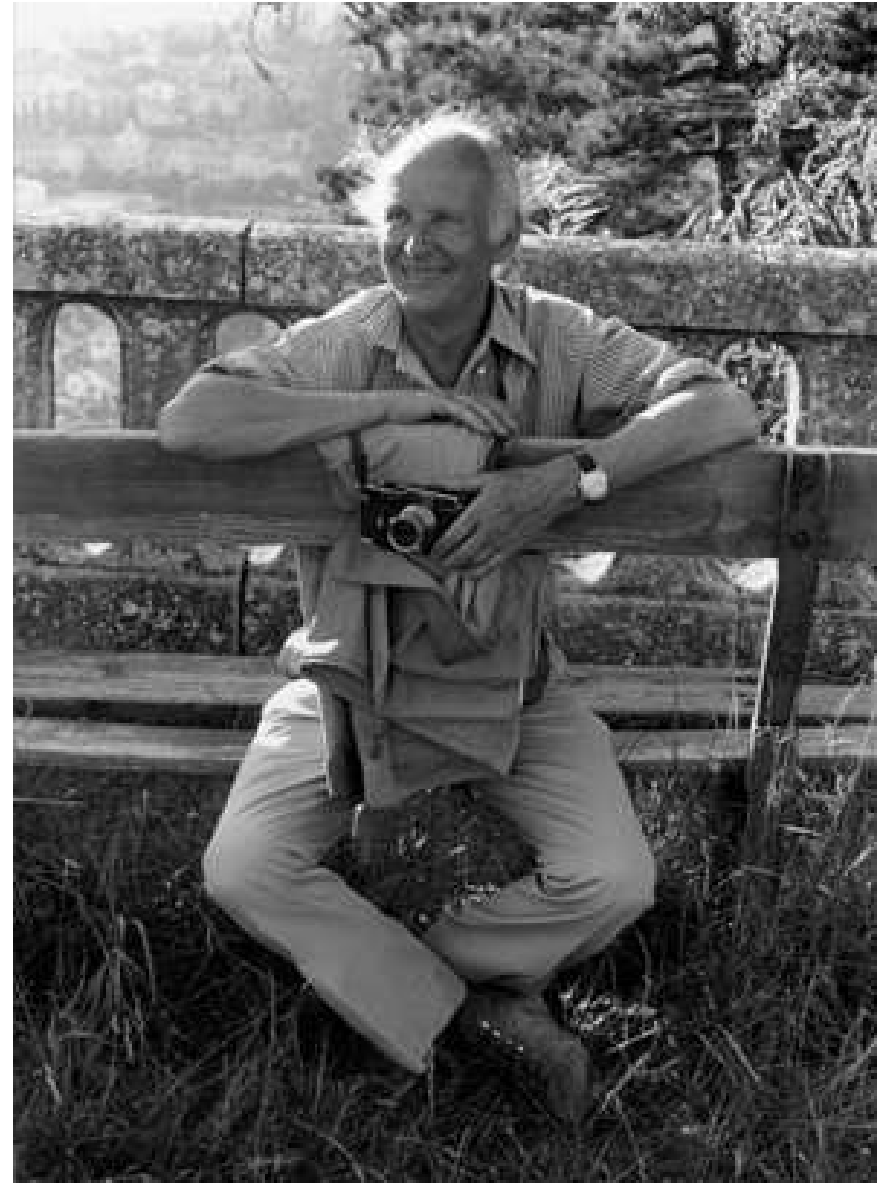


Henri Cartier-Bresson

BIO

- Born – 1908, Died – 2004
- French Street Photographer
- “Father of Modern Photojournalism”
- Became very inspired by the work of Martin Munkacsi – He left art school and his dreams of being a painter, picked up a camera and became a street photographer.
- Served as a corporal in the film and photo unit of the French Army during WWII
- Spent 3 decades photographing for Magnum, Life and Other journals.
- In 2003, he created a foundation to preserve his legacy.



CAREER

- As a kid, he used a box brownie camera.
- He later used a 35mm film camera for the length of his career.
- He had a strong background in painting which inspired his photographs to be rich in artistic form and composition.
- Cartier-Bresson's first photojournalist photos to be published came in 1937 when he covered the coronation of King George VI, for the French weekly *Regards*.
- His photographic philosophy: The Decisive Moment.

The Decisive Moment

"Photography is not like painting,"
Cartier-Bresson told the
Washington Post in 1957.

"There is a creative fraction of
a second when you are taking
a picture. Your eye must see a
composition or an expression
that life itself offers you, and
you must know with intuition
when to click the camera. That
is the moment the
photographer is creative," he
said. "Oop! The Moment! Once
you miss it, it is gone forever."



Photo by Henri Cartier-Bresson

STYLE

- Cartier-Bresson exclusively used Leica 35 mm rangefinder cameras equipped with normal 50 mm lenses or occasionally a wide-angle for landscapes.
- He often wrapped black tape around the camera's chrome body to make it less conspicuous. With fast black and white films and sharp lenses, he was able to photograph almost by stealth to capture the events.
- He believed in composing his photographs in the viewfinder, not in the darkroom. Cartier-Bresson worked exclusively in black and white, other than a few unsuccessful attempts in color. He disliked developing or making his own prints. He said, "I've never been interested in the process of photography, never, never. Right from the beginning. For me, photography with a small camera like the Leica is an instant drawing."









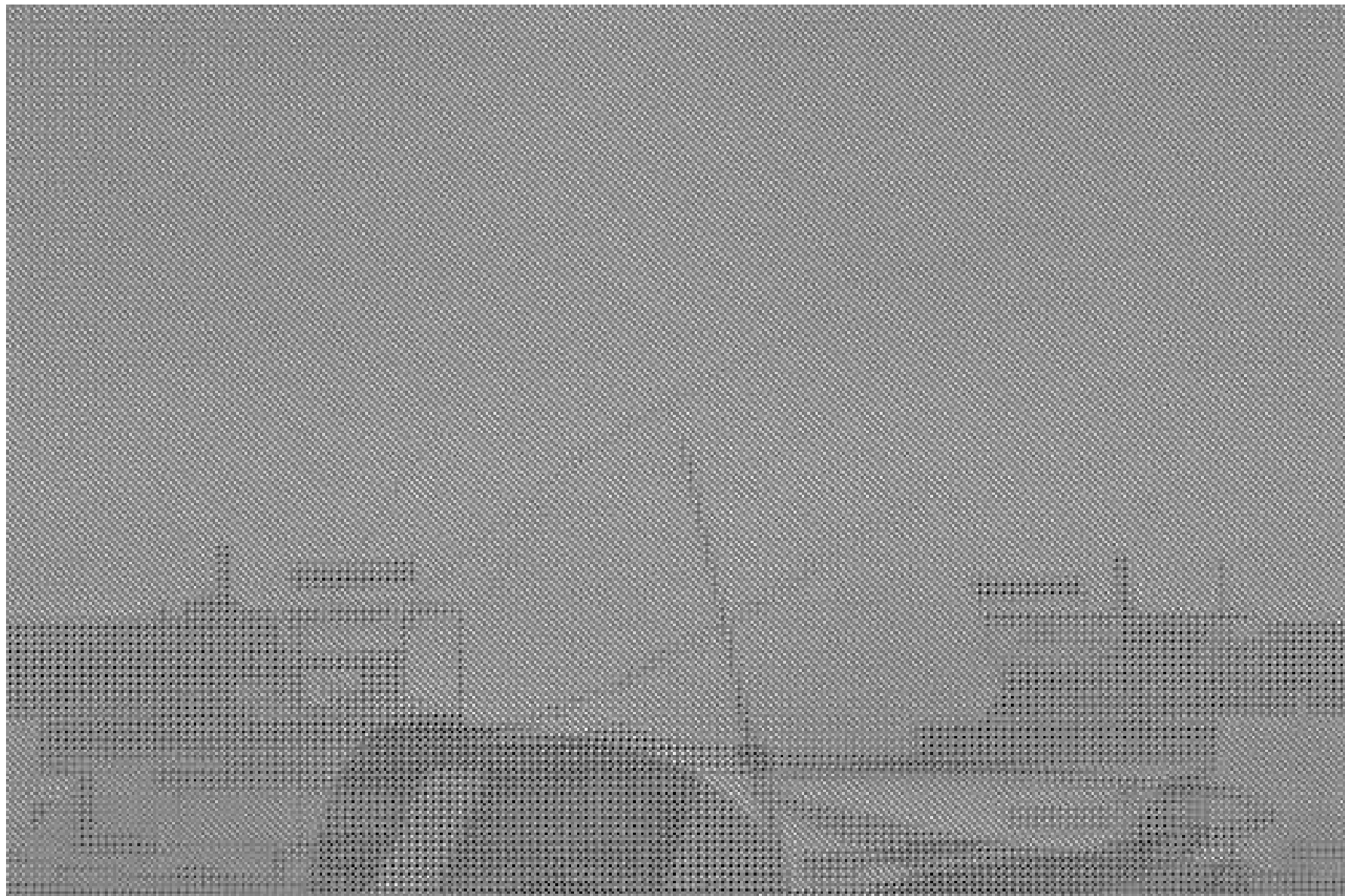




















The simultaneous recognition, in a fraction of a second, of the significance of an event as well as the precise organization of forms which gives that event its proper expression... . In photography, the smallest thing can be a great subject. The little human detail can become a leitmotif.

—Henri Cartier-Bresson