



Press Release

The Beauty of everyday life
From Paris to Venice: A photographic journey by Willy Ronis

May 30, 2019

“All the attention is fixed on a unique moment, almost too good to be true, which can evaporate in the next second and provokes a feeling that is impossible to obtain using staged artifices.”

— Willy Ronis, June 1956

Reporter, industrial photographer and illustrator, Willy Ronis (1910–2009) was one of the key figures of twentieth-century French photography. For eight decades, from the 1930s to the 2000s, he pointed his camera lens at the French people, criss-crossing the streets of the capital or the south of the country with a perpetually-renewed pleasure. A photographer of joyful happenstance, Ronis captured the “slices of everyday life” of his family and friends, such as his wife Marie-Anne or his son Vincent, but also strangers who he came across while taking a detour through the streets of Belleville. A member of the Groupe des XV, he vigorously and passionately defended the career of photographer. In 1951, his work gained broader recognition during an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, where it was shown alongside works by Cartier-Bresson, Brassai, Doisneau and Izis.

The University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) will present *From Paris to Venice: A photographic journey by Willy Ronis* from May 31 to August 25, 2019. The photographic prints in this exhibition are on loan from the Médiathèque de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine collection, which houses the 108,000 negatives, 9000 slides, 20,300 prints and 6 albums of the photographer's reference prints, as well as his contact sheets, archives (diaries, handwritten texts, personal and professional letters) and library. Ronis always considered the context in which his works were reproduced as being crucial, along with the accompanying notes. Therefore, some of the most important works on display here are coupled with comments or quotes from the photographer, drawn from the six photobooks that he published beginning in 1985.

An opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at UMAG today (May 30). Officiating guests included Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macao Mr. Alexandre Giorgini, Head of Greater China and Chief Executive Officer of BNP Paribas Hong Kong Mr. Paul Yang, Deputy Director of the Jeu de Paume of Paris Ms. Alice Martin, Co-curator Mr. Matthieu Rivallin, UMAG Director Dr Florian Knothe, President of the Alliance Française de Hong Kong Mr. Edouard Ettetdgui and Chairman of Le French May Dr. Andrew. S. Yuen.

Carefully selected from the enormous oeuvre Ronis left behind, our exhibition offers an overview of the famous photographer's work, the photographic genre he helped to create and the iconic views and pictorial compositions that assisted formulating the romantic imagery of Paris and other places that we hold dear today. This project is a collaboration between the University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong and Alliance Française in Hong Kong and the Jeu de Paume, a National Museum in Paris.





— Co-curators: Mr. Matthieu Rivallin and Dr. Florian Knothe

For more images and captions of the exhibits, please click [here](#).

Details of the Exhibition

Period: May 31, 2019 (Friday) to August 25, 2019 (Sunday)

Opening Hours:

09:30 – 18:00 (Monday to Saturday)

13:00 – 18:00 (Sunday)

Closed on University and Public Holidays

Venue: 1/F, T.T. Tsui Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam

Tel/Email: (852) 2241 5500 (General Enquiry) / museum@hku.hk

Admission: Free

Website: <http://www.umag.hku.hk/en/>

Connect with UMAG on social media:

Facebook: http://bit.ly/umag_facebook

Instagram: @umag_hku, #UMAG, #WillyRonis, #photography, #French

Weibo: @香港大學美術博物館 UMAG

YouTube: http://bit.ly/umag_youtube

LinkedIn: http://bit.ly/umag_linkedin

About University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong (UMAG)

UMAG was founded in 1953 as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It was originally established as the Fung Ping Shan Library in 1932 in honour of its benefactor. For more information on UMAG, please [click here](#).

Media enquiries

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