

MAGNUM PHOTOS PICTURE OF THE WEEK



USA. New York City. 1966. East 100th Street. © Bruce Davidson/Magnum Photos

"'What you call a ghetto, I call my home.' This was said to me when I first came to East Harlem, and during the two years that I photographed the people of East 100th Street, it stayed with me. Home became an old man who grows grass between broken slabs of concrete in a tenement backyard, children behind windows covered in chicken wire, walls with pictures of Christ, Kennedy, and the American flag, and a retired maid in uniform scrubbing her own linoleum floor. Home is formal family photographs, a boy with an African-head medallion on a rooftop who wouldn't let me photograph his pigeons because he wanted them to be free, a party given by seven brothers for their mother arriving from Puerto Rico who they hadn't seen in eighteen years, a young articulate poet and revolutionary who feared that his photograph would end up in an FBI file, four bullet scars on the abdomen of a reform school graduate, and a conga drummer who has two jobs and goes to night school to study aeronautical engineering..." - Bruce Davidson, 1970

Bruce Davidson

Nato in America nel 1933 a Oak Park, Illinois, Bruce Davidson vinse il primo premio del Kodak National High School Competition all'età di solo sedici anni. In seguito frequentò il Rochester Institute of Technology e poi l'università di Yale.

Fu durante il servizio militare a Parigi che Davidson incontrò Henri Cartier-Bresson, uno dei fondatori di Magnum Photos. Nel 1957 comincia a collaborare come fotografo freelance per la rivista Life, e nel 1959 egli diviene uno dei membri di Magnum.

Premiato con il Guggenheim Fellowship nel 1962 pre aver documentato il Civil Rights Movement attraverso tutti gli Stati Uniti. Per Davidson comincia un periodo in cui il suo grande talento gli sarà decisamente riconosciuto, infatti nel 1963 il Museum of Modern Art di New York decise di dedicargli una personale retrospettiva..

Primo a ricevere il National Endowment for the Arts nel 1966, Davidson si concentrò per i due anni successivi nella realizzazione di un progetto davvero singolare, fotografare un isolato di

New York: il risultato fu il bellissimo libro fotografico dal titolo: "East 100th Street" che raccoglie le immagini di questo spaccato di Spanish Harlem.

Davidson estese la sua visione della città con "Subway", nel quale esplorò il mondo sotterraneo della metropolitani di New York, prima che diventasse feticcio; e dopo con "Central Park", un progetto fotografico della durata di quattro anni dedicato all'omonimo parco newyorchese. Il film di Davidson "Living Off the Land", anch'esso avente come soggetto la grande mela fu premiato con il Critics Award all'American Film Festival.

Henry Geldzahler, il former Curatordel MoMa di New York, ebbe a dire di lui: "The ability to enter so sympathetically into what seems superficially an alien environment remains Bruce Davidson's sustained triumph; in his investigation he becomes the friendly recorder of tenderness and tragedy".

Davidson attualmente vive e lavora a New York City.

Premi

- 2007 Gold Medal Visual Arts Award – National Arts Club
- 2004 Lucie Award – Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Photography
- 1998 Open Society Institute Individual Fellowship
- 1973 American Film Festival - First Prize in Fiction (Isaac Singer's Nightmare and Mrs. Pupko's Beard)
- 1969 Critics Award, the American Film Festival (for Living off the Land)
- 1967 The first grant for photography from the National Endowment for the Arts
- 1966 National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Photography
- 1962 Guggenheim Fellowship
- 1949 First prize in the Kodak National High School Competition

Mostre

- 2007 Time of Change: Civil Rights Photographs, 1961-65 and East 100th Street – Foundation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris, France
- 2006 Subway – Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
- 2006 Bruce Davidson – Bulger Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 On the Street - Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 2005/06 Bruce Davidson - Atlas Gallery, London, UK
- 2005 Subway, Museum of the City of New York, USA
- 2004 Isaac Bashevis Singer and the Lower East Side, Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, Amherst, Ma, USA
- 2004 Subway - Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, USA
- 2003 East 100th Street 1966 – 1968, Photographic Center Northwest, Seattle, USA
- 2003 Inside, Outside - Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, USA
- 2003 Retrospective - Robert Klein Gallery, New York, USA
- 2003 Time of Change: Civil Rights Photographs, 1961-65, ICP, New York, USA Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, Ca, USA
- 2003 Images From the Inside, Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 1998/99 Brooklyn Gang, ICP, New York, New York, USA
- 1996/97 Bruce Davidson: American Photography, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York, USA
- 1983 ICOP, New York, USA
- 1983 Musée Réattu, Arles, France
- 1983 Galerie Municipale du Château d'Eau, Toulouse, France
- 1979 Galerie FNAC, Montparnasse, Paris, France
- 1979 Bruce Davidson Photographs - Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
- 1970 East 100th Street - Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1963 Bruce Davidson - Museum of Modern Art, New York

Le opere di Davidson sono presenti nelle seguenti collezioni:

- Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- Whitney Museum, New York, USA
- Museum of the City of New York, New York, USA
- International Center of Photography, New York, USA
- New York Historical Society, New York, USA
- National Gallery of Canada - Musée des Beaux-Arts du Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- The Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), Chicago, USA
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA
- Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA

Libri

- 2007 Circus, Steidl, Germany
- 2005 England / Scotland 1960, Steidl, Germany
- 2002 Time of Change, Civil Rights Photographs 1961-1965, St. Ann's Press, USA
- 1999 Portraits, Aperture, USA
- 1998 Brooklyn Gang, Twin Palms, USA
- 1995 Central Park, Aperture, USA
- 1997 Photo Poche, Editions Nathan, France
- 1990 Bruce Davidson (Photofile), Thames & Hudson, UK
- 1986 Subway, Aperture, USA; St Ann's Press, USA
- 1986 Bruce Davidson, Pantheon/National Center of Photography, USA
- 1979 Bruce Davidson Photographs, Simon & Schuster, USA; (Bruce Davidson Photographs), Le Chêne, France
- 1973 Subsistence USA, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, USA
- 1970 East 100th Street, Harvard University Press, USA; St. Ann's Press, USA
- 1966 The Negro American, Houghton, Mifflin, USA
- 1964 The Bridge, Harper and Row, USA

Films

- 1972 Living off the Land
- 1972 Isaac Singer's Nightmare and Mrs. Pupko's Beard