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## 10 Photographers

### Larry Sultan



Larry Sultan grew up in California, which is where he drew a lot of his inspiration for his photography projects. His style blends staged and documentary images of landscapes of family life in the suburbs. With his photography projects, he really explored family life and even incorporated his own mother and father. He studied middle-class families and homes and he also explored the culture of families. Fantasy and reality are some themes that were prevalent in his photographs and he used those to show domestic relationships and how what we surround ourselves by can be cultural symbols. Larry Sultan is a well-known artist and his work has been in exhibits in many museums and art institutes across America. He was also a Professor of Photography at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Larry Sultan passed away in his home in California in 2009.

I really enjoy Larry Sultan's photographs because of how unique and unusual they are. Most of his photographs seem to represent family life and ordinary life, yet these photographs are not ordinary. Also, in his photographs, the outside seems to be brought inside with the grass when the man is golfing, the sheep in the second photograph, and the tree and lake in the last photograph. He is interlacing the inside world with the outside world and connecting the two with people and families.

<http://larrysultan.com/bio/>

### Bill Owens



Bill Owens was born in 1938 and was volunteering in Jamaica when he became interested in photography. When he came back to America he began his education in San Francisco with a

visual anthropology course. He worked as a documentarian and was fascinated by the work of documentary photographers. When he was 29 years old he got a job as a photographer for a local newspaper. He worked with a 35mm camera and recorded everything that was happening in the town. On the weekends, he would photograph what he pleased with a different type of camera; a Pentax 6x7 and a Brooks Veriwide 6x9. He would photograph his friends and his family. He especially looked for people who could be photographed at home. This is very evident in his photographs above because it looks like Bill Owens is a viewer of these peoples' lives at home. Bill Owens published a book in 1972 called *Suburbia* and it became an extremely popular book and has become one of the most important photography books.

Bill Owen's style of photography is very evident because of the subject matter that he uses and in most of his photographs he places his main focal point in the center, which shares with me as the viewer that he is documenting how these people are living. It is surprising the amount of subject matter in his photographs, yet somehow it always directs the viewer's eye to the main focal point which is the human or humans. There is a clear directionality with the rugs or the cars or the counter tops that points in the way of the person who is working in their home. I appreciate Bill Owen's photographs because he uses the subject matter in the houses in such a wonderful way that does not distract from the people, because they easily could have sidetracked the viewer and the main focal point wouldn't have been clear.

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/bill-owens?all/all/all/all/0>

## Vivian Maier



Vivian Maier was born in 1926 in New York City and passed away in 2009. She was an American street photographer. She spent her early years in France yet moved back to the United States in 1951 and became a nanny and care-giver. She spent her free time photographing for 50 years and produced more than 100,000 negatives. She mostly shot her pictures in New York City or Chicago. While she was in France she discovered photography and began experimenting with it. Her first camera was a Kodak Brownie box camera that only had one shutter speed and no way to change the aperture or focus. When she was a nanny, she would sometimes have the luxury of a darkroom. Yet when the children she was a nanny for grew up, she had to move from house to house, which caused her collection of undeveloped film to pile up. Around this time she began to use color photography. Vivian Maier struggled financially, which caused her to have to pause her photography adventures. She ended up being homeless for a period until she found a small studio apartment that she lived in and paid for with her work money. Her

photographs were auctioned off and sold because she was not able to pay her rent. When she passed away she left so many photographs that she was not able to develop.

I really enjoy Vivian Maier's work, she tells a short story with every photograph she takes. She is able to capture the personality of the people she photographs. It is also interesting how she plays with eye contact in her photographs. Sometimes her subject is looking directly at her camera and sometimes they are looking away. I really enjoy the power that the subjects have in her photographs, they bring you into the photograph and they make you as the viewer wonder what they are thinking or looking at or why they are crying. The emotional element to Vivian's photographs are really wonderful.

<http://www.vivianmaier.com/about-vivian-maier/>

## Bruce Davidson



Bruce Davidson was born in 1933 who began taking pictures when he was just ten years old in Illinois. He attended RIT and Yale University and then was drafted into the army. He was stationed near Paris, where he met one of the founders of the photography agency, Magnum Photos. After he left the military he became a freelance photographer for LIFE magazine and became a full member of Magnum. In 1962, he received a Guggenheim fellowship and created a documentation of the civil rights movement in America. His work was presented in 1963 in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He received a grant for photography from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1967. This was when his work became very popular and it was published and republished. There was also an exhibition of his work in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He explored and captured New York's Metro system, which was later published in a book and exhibited at the International Center for Photography. His work is present in many major private and public fine art collections in different places around the world.

What I enjoy about Bruce Davidson's photographs is that the viewer is instantly put in the place of the main focal point. The viewer feels the emotion and feel ostracized from the other group in the photograph. In the first image, the girl with the kitten looks like she feels alone because the other people look like they are judging her and making her feel unwelcome. The second photograph really shares with the viewer that the man sitting alone does not feel welcome in the restaurant. The civil rights movement is very clear with the last image, which was one of Bruce's photography projects. I really feel the emotion from the people he captures with his images, which is why I enjoy them.

[http://pro.magnumphotos.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MAGO31\\_9\\_VForm&ERID=24KL53ZTH6](http://pro.magnumphotos.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MAGO31_9_VForm&ERID=24KL53ZTH6)



## John Gossage

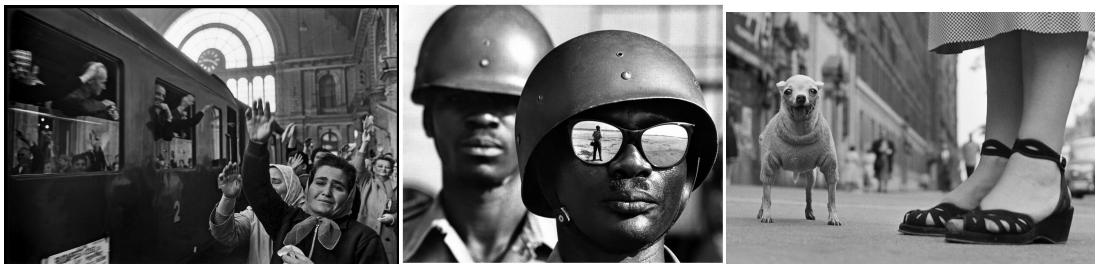


John Gossage was born in 1946 in Staten Island in New York. He not only has focused on his photography but also artist books and other publications that are very engaging and intellectual. John explored underrepresented parts of urban culture and the environment. He explored abandoned patches of land, graffiti, barbed wire, and the relationship that was between power and architecture. John Gossage photographs forgotten objects or scenes and how they transition into the past and become a piece of history. He really focuses on telling a story with every photograph he takes, he explores remembered and forgotten pieces that have become his style and theme of photography.

I appreciate his photographs because they explore shadows and reflections, which I really enjoy photographing. He uses organic and geometric shapes in his photography and it is interesting that he usually centers his main focal point yet balances it with another piece of the surrounding such as the stone wall, the dashboard, or the tree. I really enjoy his photographs because he looks for what the outline of an object would look like instead of just photographing it. Also, if he wants to photograph more detail he can photograph the reflection. I really enjoy his photographs and am inspired to try more with shadows.

<http://stephendaitergallery.com/artists/john-gossage/>

## Elliott Erwitt



Elliott Erwitt was born in 1928 in Paris. He had Russian parents and lived in Milan during his childhood years. He went to the United States in 1939 with his family and he lived in Hollywood where he developed an interest in photography and worked in a darkroom. He

started learning even more about photography at Los Angeles City College. He moved to New York in 1948 to study more at the New School for Social Research where he exchanged work as a janitor for film classes. He traveled to France with his camera in 1949 and about 2 years later he was drafted for military service. He continued to take photographs while serving in a unit of the Army Signal Corps in Germany and France. Elliott worked for a while building up a photographic library for the Farm Security Administration. In 1953, he joined Magnum Photos and worked as a freelance photographer. Today, Elliott Erwitt works on a variety of journalistic and commercial outfits.

The perspective that Elliott has is very interesting. I really like how he moves the camera around to capture every piece that he wants. He positioned himself so that he could be captured in the photograph of the soldier's sunglasses and he positioned himself and his camera on the ground so he could be at the same level of the dog. His stories in his photographs seem very clear and interesting, he does a great job of telling them.

[https://pro.magnumphotos.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MAGO31\\_9\\_VForm&ERID=24KL53Z1OG](https://pro.magnumphotos.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MAGO31_9_VForm&ERID=24KL53Z1OG)

## Martin Parr



Martin Parr was born in the UK in 1952. His grandfather encouraged his love of photography when he was young because his grandfather was also an amateur photographer. From 1970-1973, he studied photography at Manchester Polytechnic. After his education, he has worked on many photographic projects and developed his unique outlook on the world with his photography. After he became a full member of Magnum Photographic Cooperation in 1994, he had a new interest in filmmaking and started to use his photography in different genres like fashion and advertising. Martin Parr has been very successful in the world of art, his exhibition has toured Europe for 5 years and he was a Professor of Photography at the University of Wales.

His compositions are very interesting because all of the subjects in the photograph seem to relate to each other in one way or another without being very similar or talking. Looking at his photographs I do not feel completely comfortable, I am not sure why yet there is something about them that makes me feel unsure, almost as if I am intruding on a family gathering or staring. His photographs are very interesting and his perspective is very interesting.

<https://www.martinparr.com/cv/>

## Eva Rubinstein



Eva Rubinstein was born in 1933 in Argentina and she was born to classical dancer and concert pianist parents. She was raised in Paris, France and started to train as a ballet dancer when she was five years old. She and her family moved to the United States after the beginning of World War II and she became an American citizen in 1946. She studied at Scripps College in Claremont, California. Eva Rubinstein worked as an actress and dancer for some on Broadway and off-Broadway performances and she appeared in the original production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In 1956, she married Reverend William Coffin and they had three children together. They were divorced in 1967 and that was when she started her photography career where she participated in workshops with very influential people.

Her photographs are very architectural and simplistic. Simplistic photography can be very difficult and she seems to be very good and successful with it. This house that she is photographing seems abandoned and very empty, it looks like it has been untouched for a while. It makes me wonder if there is a deeper meaning behind the emptiness and abandoned feeling that her photographs give.

<http://www.mocp.org/detail.php?type=related&kv=7631&t=people>

## Kenneth Josephson



Kenneth Josephson was born in 1932 in Detroit Michigan. He is very playful with his photography, using illusion to question photography and what is in his photographs. He graduated from the Illinois Institute of Design and studied under people such as Aaron Siskind, Harry Callahan, and Minor White. Kenneth taught for 35 years at the Art Institute of Chicago and there he taught an introductory course in photography, which inspired him to experiment with photography and always try something new. With his photography, he reminds the viewers that no matter how real a photograph looks, it is only 2-D.

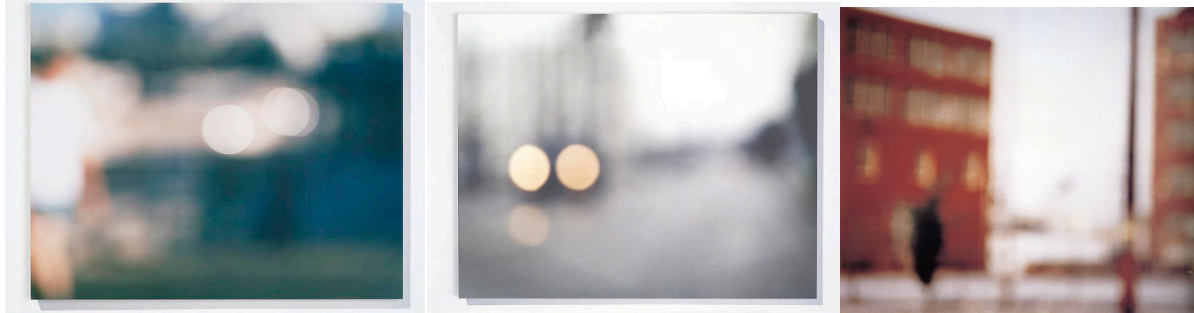
His photographs are interesting because he uses his body to lead the viewer to his intended subject. He plays with the viewer's perception of reality and that the image is really 2-D, despite



it looking so realistic. He is very playful by including a photograph in his photographs, sharing with the viewers that we are just looking at another photograph. I do enjoy the light-heartedness that his photographs have and how it looks as if he enjoys creating his compositions.

<https://www.artsy.net/artist/kenneth-josephson>

## Uta Barth



Uta Barth was born in 1958 in Berlin and currently lives in Los Angeles. She went to school at the University of California and received a B.A. and an M.F.A. in 1982 and 1985. Her work has been in exhibitions around the world, including an exhibition at SCAD Museum of Art in Georgia and The Art Institute of Chicago. Her images boarder on abstraction with the blurred backgrounds and the natural qualities of the light. Uta Barth plays with the limits that our eyes have with using blurry representations of visual elements. Her work is very prevalent in private and public collections in the United States. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Art at the University of California.

Some of these images I am confused by because my eyes are having a difficult time understanding what they are, yet I believe that is what I enjoy about Uta Barth's images, they make you think. Her photographs are very still and as a viewer, it feels as if you are looking at the world with no glasses on. This is a very abstract way of looking at the world and it is very interesting because it is not conventional. I enjoy her photographs because they make me look at the world in a new way.

<http://www.tanyabonakdargallery.com/artists/uta-barth/series-photography>