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ARTS

Making llamas feel more glamorous than Marilyn Monroe: Inge Morath's iconic works

Inge Morath's eye for detail and her meticulous manner of working led the Austrian journalist to join the famous Paris-based Magnum photography agency. A show devoted to her work opens in Berlin.



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THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

A llama on Times Square

What appears to be snapshot was actually the arduous result of a commission to photographer Inge Morath. For a series of days, the Austrian photographer accompanied the television animal star "Linda the Llama" through New York, capturing its image in various settings. But the photographer was only satisfied with this image at Times Square since she felt the llama appeared sovereign in the picture.



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THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

Different worlds

One of Inge Morath's first commissioned works as a Magnum member was photographing residents of the London districts Soho and Mayfair in 1953. In particular, the portrait of the wealthy publisher Eveleigh Nash and her chauffeur at the Buckingham Palace Mall was widely published. The various levels and vanishing points of the composition evoke the sense that different worlds co-exist in the image.



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THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

Memories of Mercedes Formica

Her dreamy and yet tragic gaze looks out into the distance. The picture of Mercedes Formica on the balcony in Calle de Recoletos in Madrid captures the spirit of this Spanish writer who fought for women's rights in Spain. Inge Morath's 1955 photograph became the cover image of Formica's work "Memorias."



© picture-alliance/Everett Colle

THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

The tired side of Hollywood

Morath's work on the film set of the drama "The Misfits" (1961) was significant for several reasons. For one thing, her photographs taken during the filming offered a more intimate look at Marilyn Monroe's vulnerable side (shown here with Montgomery Clift). For another thing, these images lent her the reputation of providing an honest look at "tired Hollywood."



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THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

Artistic marriage

Inge Morath also got to know Arthur Miller on the film set. At the time, Miller was still married to Marilyn Monroe. Shortly after their break-up, Miller and Morath married. The two settled down on a farm in Roxbury, Connecticut, which became the location for the two artists' work.



© Kurt Kaindl

THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

The quiet studio

Austrian photographer Kurt Kaindl of Galerie Fotohof in Salzburg visited the Roxbury home every year between 1990 and 2002. He and Morath collaborated on various exhibitions and books, so he got a first-hand look at Morath's studio.



© Kurt Kaindl

THE WORKS OF MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHER INGE MORATH

An intimate look

During their collaborations, the two Austrians came up with the idea of photographing their working processes. Over the years, a documentation of Morath's private surroundings emerged. These photographs are also presented in the exhibition at the Verborgenes Museum in Berlin from April 26 - August 26, 2018.

Author: Alexander Keßel (als)

"She made poetry of people and their places," American writer Arthur Miller wrote about his wife Inge Morath's work following her death in 2002. Following World War II, Austrian Morath traveled the world for her work. Her photographic reportages of the time revealed parts of the world that had remained largely hidden: countries like China, Iran and South Africa.

The daughter of two academics learned eight different languages in order to better capture the essence of the people she was photographing. "She was very good at that," said chief curator Elisabeth Moortgat of the Verborgenes Museum (Hidden Museum) in Berlin, which is showing

selected works by Morath from April 26 through August 26. The works are part of the collection of the Salzburg Galerie Fotohof, with which Morath collaborated to publish various books.

Read more: ['Ethical lapse': Photoshop scandal catches up with iconic photojournalist Steve McCurry](#)



Austrian photographer Inge Morath

Marilyn Monroe's tired side

The focal point of the exhibition is the photojournalist's work from the 1950s into the 70s. Several portraits of famous artists such as sculptor Louise Bourgeois and director and writer André Malraux are also on show.

During her life, Morath enjoyed entrée to a crowd of intellectuals through her marriage to Arthur Miller. Morath met him in 1960 on the film set of the drama "The Misfits," in which Marilyn Monroe played the leading role. At the time, the film goddess was married to Miller. Morath managed to impressively capture a yet unseen side of Monroe, exposing her vulnerability. The actress' life would end tragically a couple of years later.

Read more: [The photographer behind Marilyn Monroe's most iconic photo](#)

Meticulousness with composition

"One eye on the motif, the other on the soul" is the way the Austrian described her photographic approach.

Morath would observe, become familiar with other cultures, but rarely pulled out her camera right away. Instead, she took her time to patiently, tenderly approach her subjects and the places they lived. She spent five years learning Mandarin, for instance, before traveling to China with Arthur Miller.

Read more: [Magnum Photos publishes guide on Europe for refugees, migrants](#)

The second woman at Magnum

The turning point in Morath's career was meeting war photographer Robert Capa in 1949. At the time, then 26-year-old Morath had not yet mastered the use of the camera, but her written reportages as a journalist were what convinced the co-founder of the Magnum agency, which had been established in Paris two years previously. Morath was initially hired as an editor, but she quickly cultivated her photographic talent and furthered her training with Simon Guttman, managing director of various photo agencies.

Read more: [80 years of war photography with Robert Capa and Gerda Taro](#)



The exhibition also depicts Morath's studio

Upon completion of her photographic training, she was accepted as a full-fledged member of Magnum in 1955, the second woman to do so after Eve Arnold.

Commissions in the following years took her across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. During all of her travels, she stayed longer at the commissioned locations than necessary to get a feel for the people and places. It was this meticulousness and her desire not to extract her photographic motifs and subjects from their surroundings that defined Inge Morath's reputation as an outstanding artist.

The exhibition at Das Verborgene Museum runs from April 26 – August 26, 2018.

DW RECOMMENDS

Magnum Photos publishes guide on Europe for refugees, migrants

Roughly 1 million people applied for asylum in the European Union last year. A special guide published in several languages now gives them practical tips and useful background information on the history of Europe. (17.01.2017)

The photographer behind Marilyn Monroe's most iconic photo

We've all seen Marilyn Monroe in a white dress standing over a subway ventilation. The iconic image is Sam Shaw's most famous, but certainly not his most moving. His work is now on show in Germany. (22.05.2017)

'Ethical lapse': Photoshop scandal catches up with iconic photojournalist Steve McCurry

The world-renowned Magnum photographer has renounced the responsibilities of a photojournalist after heavily editing several of his images. But his use of Photoshop has breached photojournalism's ethics, say colleagues. (31.05.2016)

1968 through the lens of German photo journalist Robert Lebeck

Photographs by German Robert Lebeck are historical snapshots. His works from 1968 are on now show at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg. They reveal both pivotal and everyday moments. (05.03.2018)

Berlin photo exhibition sheds light on lives of US soldiers in Germany

American troops have been stationed in Germany since World War II. The photo exhibition "Little America" at the Allied Museum in Berlin gives a rare glimpse into the lives of soldiers and their families. (23.03.2018)

Auschwitz color photo: 'A 14-year-old girl, not just a statistic'

Marina Amaral's realistic colorization of black-and-white photos has earned her world renown. The self-taught artist is now working with the Auschwitz museum to make Holocaust images even more striking. (26.03.2018)

80 years of war photography with Robert Capa and Gerda Taro

Robert Capa and Gerda Taro are considered to be the founders of modern war photography. In September 1936, Capa took one of the most famous wartime Pictures in history: "Falling soldier." (02.09.2016)

The works of Magnum photographer Inge Morath

Reportage photographer Inge Morath became the second female member of the Paris-based photography agency Magnum. Her marriage to author and playwright Arthur Miller opened doors to an artistic elite. (25.04.2018)

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