

HAUSER & WIRTH

Dispatches

Press Release

Online Exhibition

Don McCullin



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To coincide with the reopening of Sir Don McCullin CBE's exhibition 'The Stillness of Life' at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, the acclaimed photographer will present a special online exhibition of platinum prints. The digital curation echoes McCullin's continued passion for international travel and the salvation he seeks within the British countryside. Spanning from the 1980s to the present day, the landscape imagery ranges from flooding meadows and expansive local views across Somerset, to the Sonapur Mela Festival along the Ganges in India, and the Northern Arctic in Svalbard Archipelago. For McCullin, the landscape is a living subject. His photography engages the energy of the land—its history, character and expression—recording an intimacy and awareness of the fragile relationship between us and our natural surroundings.

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'Nothing ever stays the same in life.

You find a place you really love and think it's going to stay like that forever and it won't.

You must always expect change.

All I'm doing is falling in line with time now, by recording what's there.'

– Don McCullin, 2020



Throughout his career McCullin has found himself on the edge of civilisation looking in, capturing scenes as they unfold with an irresistible intuition, evoking our innermost feelings and rawest state of what it is to feel alive. Undoubtedly conflict and disaster have never left him, having documented almost every major humanitarian disaster of the last half-century, but it is his landscape images that enable him to find solace and create shared moments of peace and stillness with his viewer.

The online presentation will allow a focused insight into McCullin's platinum printing, a photographic process that delivers an infinite tonal range unattainable in his more conventional gelatin silver prints. Unlike the silver print process, platinum lies on the paper surface and has an ability to draw out and emphasise subtle detail in multiple layers, ideally suited to McCullin's meditative landscapes that resonate with human emotion. Whilst McCullin is known for developing his own work, in order to create these images he has collaborated with specialist printers of platinum and platinum-palladium prints, 31 Studio based in Stroud, the first of its kind to be set up in the United Kingdom. McCullin says that his platinums are an attempt to bring some balance to his work, and maybe to his memories. 'This work is therapeutic,' he says. 'I couldn't be happier than when I am standing out on a cold winter morning waiting for the right light. The platinums are the essence. They are as far as you can go with what I am trying to do and say.'

Both the online and physical exhibitions follow McCullin's major retrospective at Tate Britain, London in Spring 2019, featuring over 250 photographs that celebrate the scope and achievements of his entire career. The survey exhibition is due to travel to Tate Liverpool later this year. In May 2020, The International Center of Photography honoured McCullin with the Lifetime Infinity Award for his longstanding contribution to photography. Founded

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by Cornell Capa in 1974, The International Center of Photography is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture, based in New York. 'Don McCullin. The Stillness of Life' will be on view at Hauser & Wirth Somerset until 6 September 2020.

About the artist

Sir Don McCullin CBE is one of the most important war photographers of the late twentieth century, best known for his broad war reportage and critical social documentation. Between 1966 and 1984, he worked for The Sunday Times Magazine under Editor-in-Chief Harold Evans and Art Editor David King. He has since travelled to India, Africa and the Middle East, raising awareness of global humanitarian issues and war-torn countries with unflinching honesty, releasing 19 publications on various themes. McCullin has continued to document areas in a state of emergency well into his eighties, including a trip to Aleppo, Syria in 2015 and two subsequent visits in 2018 and 2019.

In 2017 McCullin was knighted in the New Year Honours for his lifetime services to photography. In 1993 he was the first photojournalist to be honoured with a CBE, for his sustained and significant contribution to photojournalism. In 2013, he was honoured with an exhibition at Visa Pour L'Image, the International Festival of Photojournalism in Perpignan, France. In 1977, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, followed by the Royal Photographic Society's Special 150th Anniversary Medal and Honorary Fellowship (HonFRPS) in 2003. He has been awarded a number of Honorary Doctorates and degrees from The University of Bath, The University of Bradford, The University of Exeter, The University of Lincoln, The Open University, The University of Gloucestershire and University of the Arts London.

Recent solo exhibitions include: The Stillness of Life, Hauser & Wirth Somerset, UK (2019-current); Southern Frontiers, Chateau La Coste, France (2019); Don McCullin Retrospective, Tate Britain, UK (2019); Don McCullin: Proximity, Hamiltons Gallery, UK (2019); Don McCullin, Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles, US (2018); Master of Photography, Photo London, UK and Les Rencontres D'Arles, France (2016); Conflict – People – Landscape, Hauser & Wirth Somerset, UK (2015).

Supporting COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for the World Health Organization

Hauser & Wirth continues to donate 10% of its gross profits from all online exhibitions to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for the World Health Organization, as part of the gallery's ongoing #artforbetter initiative. To learn more about the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for WHO please visit: covid19responsefund.org

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Somerset Levels, Glastonbury

1990s, printed in 2016

Platinum Print, edition of 5

The Arctic North, Svalbard Archipelago

2019, printed in 2019

Platinum print, edition of 5