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EXHIBITIONS Continental Europe

Original boho chic

The impact of Romani travellers on the Prench artistic elite

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Two Venetian vedutisti in Paris

Canaletto's and Francesco Guardi's views of Venice go on show in the French capital





Spot the difference: The Green' Basel with the Charch of San Bureaule in Genelette, 1725-17 (left), and by Sound, 1789

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The long-awaited return of a 'Luxembourg boy'

New space for photography will house Edward Steichen's famous MoMA show on Great Depression America.

PHOTDERAPHY

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Luxembourg. An industrial watertower and its nearby pumphouse in the industrial town of Dudelange in Luxembourg are due to open as new spaces for photography on 29 September. The main draw of the Waassertuerm + Pomhouse project, which is an offshoot of the neighbouring Centre national de l'audiovisuel (CNA), will be the exhibition "The Bitter Years 1935-41", which the Luxembourg-born photographer Edward Steichen donated to the state of Luxembourg in 1967. The newly restored collection of around 200 photographs will find a permanent home in the base and former water tank of the town's watertower.

"The space is an exploration of the history of photojournalism, how it was understood in the 1930s and how Steichen contributed to its development in the 1960s. This history is placed in the context of contemporary photography in order to build a dialogue between the past and the present, the industrial heritage of the site and the town's development in recent years," Jean Back, the director of CNA, says.

Although Steichen's family emigrated to the US shortly after the photographer's birth, "he always saw himself as a Luxembourger", Back says. "Even after he became a well-known photographer, Steichen never forgot the country of his birth. For instance, when he visited President Kennedy at the White House



Sent to the tower and the pumphouse: Dorothea Lange's Destitute Pea Pickers in California, 1936, included in "The Bitter Years" and Stephen Gill, from the "Coexistence" series, 2011.

he said, 'I'm a Luxembourg boy'".

In 1962, "The Bitter Years" was the last exhibition he organised as the director of the Museum of Modern Art's photography department. It featured the great photographic series commissioned by the Farm Security Administration, which sent photographers such as Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein and Russell Lee to cross America to document its

citizens during the Great Depression.

Back says: "Steichen's work as a curator at MoMA, the way he presented photography in order to convey a personal message, is an important part of what we are trying to explore here in Luxembourg."

The adjacent pumphcuse (Pomhouse) will house temporary exhibitions of contemporary photography, acting "as a bridge between the historical collection and photography today", Back says. The inaugural show features the British photographer Stephen Gill, who was commissioned by CNA in 2011 to create a body of work that draws on the industrial heritage of the site, as well as the "Bitter Years" exhibition. Having spent six weeks in Dudelange, Gill was drawn to the industrial cooling ponds around the watertower. The result is "Coexistence", a series of photographs that explores the microscopic life of the ponds as well as the everyday life of the locals.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Thames & Hudson, The Bitter Years: the Ferm Security Administration Through the Eyes of Edward Steichen, which, for the first time, assembles all the photographs of the 1962 exhibition. Waassertuerm + Pomhouse is funded by Luxembourg's ministry of culture and the Services des sites et monuments nationaux. Intia Michalska

 Stephen Gill: Coexistence, Waassertuerm + Pomhouse Project, Dudelange, Luxembourg, 29 September-10 February 2013



