

# The Museum of Modern Art

MAJOR PUBLICATION TO ACCOMPANY HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON EXHIBITION

The catalog accompanying the HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON: THE EARLY WORK exhibition is a critical study of one of the great, concentrated episodes in the art of this century. Written by Peter Galassi, curator in the Department of Photography and organizer of the exhibition, the richly illustrated volume is the first to focus exclusively on the French photographer's early work.

Henri Cartier-Bresson (b. 1908) studied painting in the mid-twenties and in 1929 began to experiment with photography. In 1932 he acquired a Leica, a small, versatile camera that allowed him to respond to the most ephemeral action. Over the next three years, Cartier-Bresson created one of the most original and influential bodies of work in the history of photography. Guided by the rebellious spirit of Surrealism, he invented a style remarkable for its spontaneity, its graphic boldness, and its psychological intensity.

Based on extensive original research and on the generous cooperation of the artist, Peter Galassi provides a wealth of new information and examines the photographer's early work in the cultural and social context from which it grew. Drawing comparisons with other works of avant-garde painting and photography, he stresses the inventiveness of Cartier-Bresson's early period and demonstrates the high artifice that lies behind the work's vitality and immediacy.

Published by The Museum of Modern Art, Henri Cartier-Bresson: The Early Work contains 152 pages and includes 87 full-page duotone plates and 42 reference illustrations, four in color. The volume is available in the Museum Store for \$35.00, clothbound; \$17.50, paperbound.

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