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Saul Leiter
Early Color

Main description

This is a reprint of the immensely successful *Early Color* (2006), which presented Leiter's remarkable body of colour work to the public for the first time in book form. Although Edward Steichen had exhibited some of Leiter's colour photography at the Museum of Modern Art in 1953, it remained virtually unknown to the world thereafter.

Leiter moved to New York in 1946 to become a painter, yet through his friendship with Richard Pousette-Dart he quickly recognized the creative potential of photography. Leiter continued to paint, exhibiting with Philip Guston and Willem de Kooning, but the camera remained his ever-present means of recording life in the metropolis. None of Leiter's contemporaries, with the partial exception of Helen Levitt, assembled a comparable body of work: subtle, often abstract compositions of lyrical, eloquent colour.

Biography

Saul Leiter was born in Pittsburgh in 1923. In 1946 he moved to New York to become a painter, but was encouraged to pursue photography by the photographic experimentation and influence of his friend, the abstract expressionist Richard Pousette-Dart. Leiter subsequently enjoyed a successful career as a fashion photographer spanning three decades, and his images were published in magazines such as *Esquire*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle* and British *Vogue*. His work is held in many prestigious private and public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Leiter died in November 2013.

Bibliography

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