

## WILLY RONIS

- 1910** Born in Paris. High school, then a year of law school. Drawing, violin and harmony.
- 1926** First camera. Takes pictures during his vacation. Starts to photograph Paris.
- 1932** Enters his father's workshop.
- 1936** Death of his father. First pictures published in *Regards* on various subjects and social movements. His father's workshop is sold. Works temporarily for the "cinémathèque". Meets Chim. Reportage for *Ciné-France* on Edward G. Robinson.
- 1937** Independent photographer. Works on Paris and on the snow (Vosges and Alps). Buys a Rolleiflex. Becomes friend with Capa. Has photos at the "Expo 37" in association with Naf Avnon. First reportage for *Plaisir de France*.
- 1938/39** Travels in Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania. Works for Tourism : photos on Paris, the Limousin and the Vivarais.
- 1941/44** Assistant director of a touring theater troop in the south zone of France (Marcel Duhamel); assistant decorator at the Victorine studios (Nice); assistant during one month for Sam Lévin (Toulon); jewelry painter with Marie-Anne (whom he will marry in 1946); polyvalent teacher in a professional textile training center in the Loire. Returns to Paris in October 1944.
- 1945** Starts again the photo activity. Reportages for the illustrated press: *Point de Vue*, the *L'Ecran français*, *Regards*, *L'Illustration*, *Le Monde Illustré*. Works for Air France.
- 1946/50** Reportages for the M.R.U. Member of the group of XV. Starts working at the Rapho Agency. Activity divided between reportages of illustration, industry, publicity, fashion. Takes pictures on Paris for the files. From 1947, works on Belleville and Ménilmontant. Wins the Kodak price in 1947.
- 1950/60** Participation in the international directories: *US Camera*, *Photography Year Book* (London), *Photography of the World* (Japan), and in collective

books. Fashion (*Vogue*); *Photo-reportage et chasse aux images*, text and photographs (Montel, 1951), published in Italian under the title *Il manuale del perfetto fotoreporter* (Quinti, 1953); *Belleville-Ménilmontant*, foreword and captions by Pierre Mac Orlan (Arthaud, 1954). Gold medal at the Biennial of Venice (1957). Beginning, in 1968, of partial activity in teaching: I.d.h.e.c., Estienne, Vaugirard

- 1960/70** Illustrations for various publications, publishers and administrations. Industry. Publicity. Works for the museum and the Vasarely foundation. Reportage in Algiers for the first Festival panafrican. Reportage in the Eastern European countries: East-Berlin, Prague, Moscow.
- 1972** Leaves Paris for Gordes (Vaucluse); teacher at the "Beaux-Arts d'Avignon" (1971-1977); at the Literature University of Aix en Provence (1972-1976); at the Science University of Saint-Charles in Marseille (after 1978).
- 1975** President of honor of the "Association Nationale des Photographes-Reporters Illustrateurs", after Brassai. Photographic work on the Provence.
- 1978/79** Mission on French patrimony, commissioned by the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication. Is awarded "Grand Prix des Arts et Lettres" for photography. Director of a workshop in Lannion (Côtes d'Armor).
- 1980** Guest of honor at the XI<sup>o</sup> International Festival of Arles; Exhibitions : Athens, New York.
- 1981** Receives the Nadar price for his album *Sur le Fil du Hasard* published in 1980 (Contrejour, Paris) and published in Italy under the name *Uno Sguardo* (Jaka Book). Director of a workshop in Venice (Documentary center of the Palais Fortuny). Exhibition in Toulouse (Galerie du Château d'Eau).
- 1982** Various publications and exhibitions in France and abroad. A film called "Un voyage de Rose" (Rose's voyage) with Willy Ronis, Guy le Querrec..., directed by Patrick Barbéris.
- 1983** Illustrated monography (Fabbri (Milan) collection *I grandi fotografi..*. Donation of his work to the State (Ministère de la Culture) with "post-mortem" effect; meanwhile, his archives are distributed by himself and by Rapho agency. Returns to Paris. Monography written by Bertrand Eveno *Willy Ronis* (Belfond, collection Les Grands Photographes).

- 1984** Reprint of *Belleville-Ménilmontant* (Arthaud). A 10 minutes vidéo called "Une journée avec Willy Ronis"(A day with Willy Ronis), directed by Yves de Peretti.
- 1985** *Mon Paris* (Denoël). Official Retrospective at the Palais de Tokyo (Paris). Appointed "Commandeur dans l'ordre des Arts et Lettres". Portfolio published by Pierre-Jean Amar.
- 1986/89** Exhibitions in New York, Moscow and Bologne. Third edition of *Belleville Ménilmontant* (Arthaud).Complementary donation. Appointed "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur". A 26 minutes film "Willy Ronis ou les cadeaux du hasard" (Willy Ronis or the gifts of the chance) directed by Patrice Noia.
- 1990** Twelve exhibitions in France and abroad.
- 1991** *Photopoche* (Centre National de la Photographie), *Willy Ronis 1934-1987* (Treville, Japon)
- 1992** *Toutes Belles* (Hoëbeke) with a text by Régine Deforges.*Portrait de Saint-Benoît-du-Sault* (Calmann-Lévy, éditions P.O.). Reprints of *Sur le Fil du hasard* (Contrejour), *Mon Paris* (Denoël), *Belleville-Ménilmontant* (Arthaud).
- 1993** *Les enfants de Germinal* (Hoëbeke) with a text by Cavanna , photographs by Willy Ronis, Jean Philippe Charbonnier and Robert Doisneau. *Quand je serai grand...* (Hors Collection, Presses de la Cité). Member of the Royal Photographic Society (Great Britain).
- 1994** *Lungo il fiume delle domeniche* (Federico Motta Editore). Promoted "Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite". Exhibition "The eighties" shown at the Hotel de Sully in Paris. Exhibition in Los Angeles.
- 1995** Exhibitions in Washington DC, New York, Tokyo. Retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art of Oxford. *Willy Ronis, photographs 1926-1995*, text by Peter Hamilton (The Museum of Modern Art of Oxford)
- 1996** *Autoportraits*, text and photographs by Willy Ronis (Ed. Fata Morgana). Exhibition on the social movements from 1934 to 1954. *A nous la vie !*, text by Didier Daeninckx (Ed. Hoëbeke). Major retrospective of over 250 photographs in Paris at the Pavillon des Arts called « 70 ans de déclics », with a catalog published, (ed Paris Audiovisuel).

- 1997** *Les sorties du dimanche*, text by Noël Simsolo (Ed. Nathan, collection Carré Photo) (French edition of the book published in 1994 by Federico Motta in Italy)  
6 exhibitions in France and Argentina,  
Reprint of *Photopoche* (Ed Nathan) passing from 136 to 144 pages,  
Portfolio de 7 signed prints, foreword by Didier Daeninckx, published at  
30 copies (Ed. Pierre Jean Amar).
- 1998** Named Honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt) by the University of Warwick,  
*Un village en France*, second part of the portrait of Saint Benoît du Sault,  
text by  
Didier Daeninckx (Les Cahiers de la Photographie de Saint Benoît du  
Sault),  
6 exhibitions in France and abroad  
*La Provence* text by Edmonde Charles Roux (Ed. Hoëbeke).
- 1999** *Belleville Ménilmontant*, text by Didier Daeninckx (4<sup>th</sup> edition, Ed.  
Hoëbeke),  
*Marie-Anne, Vincent et moi*, foreword by Bertrand Eveno (Ed. Filigranes).  
Exhibitions in France (Rouen, Montpellier, Aix en Provence, Nancy).
- 2000** Exhibitions in France (Antony, Corbeil-Essonnes, Tours, Marseille), in  
Belgium  
(Charleroi at the Musée de la Photographie), in Kiev, in Cologne,  
Great retrospective exhibition at the Kahitsukan, Museum of  
Contemporary art of Kyoto along with the edition of a catalogue  
*Willy Ronis, Photographies*, exhibition at the FNAC Etoile à Paris to  
celebrate his 90th birthday
- 2001** After Henri Cartier-Bresson, Doisneau and many other famous  
photographers, the magazine of the association "Reporters sans  
Frontières" defending the freedom of the press in the world, devotes its  
issue to Willy Ronis, with a foreword by Bertrand Poirot Delpech  
*Mémoire textile*, foreword by Régis Debray (Ed La Nuée Bleue,  
Strasbourg) *Photos et propos*, text and photos by Willy Ronis (Ed  
Hoëbeke),  
Named "Commandeur de l'Ordre national du Mérite"  
Exhibitions in France and abroad
- 2002** *Willy Ronis*, collection « 55 » (Ed. Phaidon), English and French edition  
Exhibitions in France and abroad
- 2003** Exhibitions in France and abroad  
*Willy Ronis, autoportrait d'un photographe*, film by Michel Toutain and

Georges Chatain (Pyramide production)

- 2004** *Willy Ronis, doni del caso*, exhibition in Verona (Italy)  
*Le Val et les bords de Marne*, exhibition in Champigny-sur-Marne (Val de Marne)  
*Willy Ronis, le Val et les bords de Marne*, (Ed. Terre Bleue)  
*Willy Ronis, la Vie en passant*, (Ed. Prestel)
- 2005** *Willy Ronis, Instants dérobés* (Ed. Taschen)  
Exhibitions in France  
*Willy Ronis à Paris* exhibition during 6 months at the Paris Town Hall  
*Paris éternellement*, foreword by Daniel Karlin (Ed. Hoëbeke)
- 2006** Exhibitions in France  
Retrospective exhibition (130 photographs) for 15 months in Spain (Madrid, Murcia and Lleida)  
*Sur le fil du hasard*, exhibition presented during 5 months in the Rizarios center in Monodendri (Greece)  
*La Montagne de Willy Ronis*, texts by Christian Sorg (Ed. Terre Bleue)  
*Paris couleur*, foreword by Michel Boujut (Ed. Le temps qu'il fait)  
*Ce jour-là*, texts and photos by Willy Ronis (Ed. Mercure de France)
- 2007** Retrospective exhibition (200 photos) in Seoul and publication of a catalogue *Le Paris de Willy Ronis* exhibition in Beijing in the Musée de La Capitale, and publication of a catalogue  
*Fixer des vertiges*, text by Michel Onfray (Ed Galilée)  
*Les chats de Willy Ronis* (Ed Flammarion)
- 2008** Named « Officier de la Légion d'Honneur »  
*Nues*, text by Philippe Sollers (Ed. Terre Bleue)  
*Ce jour-là*, texts and photos by Willy Ronis (Ed. Folio)