

LEON BORENSZTEIN

Leon Borensztein is an internationally acclaimed photographer whose areas of focus are in psychological portraiture and documentary. Throughout his artistic career he has been driven by the need to give voice to the unheard and unseen. His latest book "Sharon" is a testimony of a father documenting every stage of the challenged life of his severely disabled daughter. His earlier published books "Metamorphosis", "One is Adam, One is Superman" and "American Portraits" are visual documentations of salient moments in the lives of his subject's.

Born in Poland in 1947, Borensztein received an MFA with honors from the San Francisco Art Institute and additionally received the Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 1987. He has exhibited his work in nearly 10 countries and 32 cities internationally, at numerous galleries and museums. His work is included in the collections of Biblioteque Nationale Paris, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, San Francisco MOMA, Chicago Art Institute, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and among other institutions. His photography has appeared in Life Magazine and Harper's Bazaar, while reviews and profiles have been published in The New York Times Magazine, Newsweek, Vogue, Fortune, Huffington Post, and countless others. He teaches at the San Francisco Art Institute and lives in Oakland, CA.

Born

1947 Poland

Education

1980 MFA, Photography, Honors, San Francisco Art Institute,
1974 BFA, Creative Art & Geography, University of Haifa, Israel

Teaching

2004-Present San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
2004 California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland
2002 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
2000 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
1998 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
1994 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
1991 The Friends of Photography, Annual Member Workshop
1986 University of California, Berkeley
1979 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
1975-7 Art Department, University of Haifa

Selected Public Collections

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois • Biblioteque Nationale, Paris, France • Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, Arizona • Centre Nationale de la Photographie, Paris, France • Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas • Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California • Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon • Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California • Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan • di Rosa Preserve • B.P. America • First National Bank of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

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Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Michael Foley Gallery, New York, New York (2 person show)
Smith Andersen North Gallery, San Rafael
- 2005 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California
- 1995 Center for Creative Growth, Oakland, California
- 1989 The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago (3 person show)
- 1988 Centre Nationale de la Photographie, Paris, France
- 1987 The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco
Bay Vista Gallery, Miami, Florida
- 1986 The Friends of Photography, Carmel, California
Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
School of Art and Architecture, University of Illinois
- 1985 San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco
- 1984 Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, Oregon
Photographers' Gallery, London
- 1977 University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel
- 1976 Beth Katz Gallery, Haifa, Israel

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2011 Pier 24 Gallery, San Francisco, California
Religare Art Gallery, New Delhi, India
DiRosa Preserve, Napa, California
- 2010 Museum Gugging, Maria Gugging, Austria
- 2007 ABCD Gallery, Paris, France
- 2006 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2004 Musee de la Mode de Marseille, Marseille, France
Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2003 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2002 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, California
- 2001 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2000 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 1999 Faculty Exhibition, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California
- 1998 Faculty Exhibition, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California
di Rosa Preserve, Napa, California
- 1997 Paul Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1996 G. Ray Hawkins Gallery, Santa Monica, California
Osaka Takashimaya, Osaka, Japan
Laforet Harajuku, Tokyo, Japan
Fernbank Museum, Atlanta, Georgia
Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
S.F. Art Institute 50 Years of Photography, San Francisco
- 1995 Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
Fotos Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 1994 Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, Oregon
- 1992 Portraits of 20 Century, Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California
San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, California
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 1991 The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Napa Valley Museum, Napa, California
- 1990 Athletes, traveling exhibition sponsored by The Smithsonian
Institute and International Center for Photography
- 1990 Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, California
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio
San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, California
- 1989 The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago (3 person show)
New York State Museum, Albany, New York
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, California
Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware
San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, California
- 1988 Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, California
Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, California
Photographic Resource Center, Boston, Massachusetts
The Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois
- 1987 Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, California
Tartt Gallery, Washington, DC.
Hoffman Borman Gallery, Santa Monica, California
- 1986 Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, California
Aperture Foundation, "Mothers and Daughters" (traveling)
Museum of Art, Eugene, Oregon (A Commitment to Vision)
San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, California
Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, Oregon
- 1985 Faculty Exhibition, University of California, San Francisco, California
Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, Oregon
- 1984 San Francisco Camerawork, San Francisco, California
- 1983 Nexus Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California
- 1974 America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 1973 America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel
University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel
- 1972 America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel
University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel
- 1971 Israeli Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

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Selected Publications

- 2016 GUP Magazine, Amsterdam, Holland
SHOTS 131, USA
- 2011 "American Psyche" Catalog, Religare Art Gallery, New Delhi, India
- 2010 "Judith", Museum Gugging, Austria
- 2007 l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2003 "Touching Feeling", Duke University Press, Durham
- 1999 "Local Colors", The di Rosa Collection of Contemporary
California Art. Chronicle Books, San Francisco
- 1996 Life Magazine, December, New York
- 1995 "American Photography", New York
"Harper's Magazine", June, New York
Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Catalog
"ZYZZYVA" Tenth-Anniversary Issue, San Francisco
"Nippon Camera", August, Tokyo, Japan
- 1994 "The New York Times Magazine", New York
"Lifelines", Dutton Children Books, New York
- 1991 "Dog Prints", Chronicle Books, San Francisco
- 1990 "ZYZZYVA", San Francisco
- 1989 "Dogs Days", Chronicle Books, San Francisco
"Photo Magazine", February, Paris, France
- 1988 "Cliches", No. 47, July, Paris, France
"Cross Country, Cross Currents", San Francisco / Boston
- 1987 "Mothers and Daughters", Aperture, New York
"Athletes", A. Knopf, New York
- 1986 "San Francisco Observed", Chronicle Books, San Francisco
"ZYZZYVA", San Francisco
"Commitment to Vision", Museum of Art, Eugene, Oregon
"J.A.C.O.B.S" Letter, San Francisco
- 1985 "Photo", Paris, France
- 1984 Leon Borensztein, Catalogue, Blue Sky Gallery, Portland
- 1983 "Photographies Magazine", Numero 2, Paris, France

Selected Awards

- 2003 California Council for the Humanities
- 1995 1st Tokyo International Photo-Biennale
11th American Photography in photojournalism, NY Times
Magazine.
Society of Newspaper Design in Photojournalism, NY Times
Magazine.
- 1987 J.S. Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship

Published Books

- 2016 "Sharon", Kehrer Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany
- 2012 "Portraits ii", Nazareli Press
- 2011 "American Portraits 1979-1989", Nazareli Press
- 2004 "One is Adam One is Superman", Chronicle Books, San Francisco
- 1977 "Metamorphosis", Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland

Photographs in Movies

- 1997 "Mothers and Daughters" documentary film, ABC, USA
- 1991 "Challenge Aneka" TV program ABC, Australia