



Eve Arnold
(American, 1912 - 2012)

Biography

Eve Arnold was born in Philadelphia in 1912 to Russian-Jewish immigrant parents. She began her photography career in 1946 while working at a photo-finishing plant in New York City. In 1948, she studied photography with influential art director Alexei Brodovitch at the New School for Social Research in New York.

One of Arnold's earliest projects documented fashion shows organised by the African American community in Harlem. The series challenged the conventions of fashion photography at the time and marked the beginning of her lifelong interest in people and communities that were often overlooked by the mainstream media. In 1951, she became the first woman to join the prestigious photography agency Magnum Photos, becoming a full member in 1957. In 1962, she moved to London, where she remained based for most of her life.

Arnold is best known for her intimate and often candid portraits of public figures, including Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Dietrich, Joan Crawford and Anjelica Huston. She photographed Monroe over a period of approximately ten years, most famously during the filming of *The Misfits* in 1960. Rather than presenting her subjects as distant celebrities, Arnold sought to reveal the person behind the public image.

Her work extended far beyond the world of film and celebrity. Throughout a career spanning more than fifty years, Arnold documented major social and political developments, including the civil rights movement and the women's rights movement in the United States. She photographed Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam, migrant workers, new mothers and working communities around the world. Her photographic essays also took her to countries including Afghanistan, China, Egypt, Haiti, India, Mongolia, South Africa and the Soviet Union. Her work was characterised by curiosity, empathy and compassion; she regarded the camera as a means of understanding people rather than judging them. Robert Capa, co-founder of Magnum Photos, described the scope of her work as "falling between Marlene Dietrich's legs and the bitter lives of migratory potato pickers."

The photographs Arnold made during her extensive travels through China in the late 1970s resulted in her first major solo exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum in 1980. That same year, she received the National Book Award for *In China* and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Magazine Photographers. In 1995, she was made an honorary fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and named a Master Photographer by the International Center of Photography in New York. She was awarded an honorary OBE in 2003 for her services to photography.



Arnold published numerous books during her lifetime, including *The Unretouched Woman*, *In China*, *In America*, *Marilyn Monroe: An Appreciation* and *In Retrospect*. Her photographs are held in major international collections, including those of the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Eve Arnold died in London on 4 January 2012, at the age of 99. Her compassionate and humanistic approach, whether photographing international celebrities or people living far from the public eye, established her as one of the most influential photojournalists of the twentieth century.

"If a photographer cares about the people before the lens and is compassionate, much is given. It is the photographer, not the camera, that is the instrument."

Selected Collections

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
National Portrait Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Brooklyn Museum, New York City, USA
Yale University (in the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library), New Haven, USA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA
International Center of Photography, New York, USA
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom
National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
National Science and Media Museum, Bradford, United Kingdom
Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums, Aberdeen, United Kingdom
Falmouth Art Gallery, Falmouth, United Kingdom
Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
Clervaux Castle – The Family of Man Collection, Clervaux, Luxembourg
Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA
Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection, United Kingdom / USA
The Eve Arnold Estate and Family Collection, United Kingdom
Various private collections, United Kingdom, Europe and the USA

Selected Exhibitions

- 2026/ 27
Solo: *Eve Arnold: All About Eve*, Fotomuseum aan het Vrijthof, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Marilyn Monroe: Hollywood Icon, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles, USA
- 2026
Fragile Beauty: Photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France
Marilyn Monroe: A Portrait, National Portrait Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Marilyn Monroe: 100 ans! – Cinémathèque française, Paris, France
- 2025/26
Solo: *Eve Arnold: Capturing Compassion*, Freiraum für Fotografie, Berlin, Germany
- 2024/25
Fragile Beauty: Photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
- 2023/24
Solo: *Eve Arnold: To Know About Women*, Newlands House Gallery, Petworth, United Kingdom
- 2023
Solo: *Eve Arnold. L'opera 1950–1980*, CAMERA – Centro Italiano per la Fotografia, Turin, Italy
- 2018
Magna Brava Ongoing, National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, United Kingdom
- 2017/18
Swaps: Photographs from the David Hurn Collection, National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, United Kingdom
- 2015
Solo: *Eve Arnold: In Retrospect*, Palazzo Madama, Turin, Italy
- 2012
Solo: *All About Eve*, Art Sensus, London, United Kingdom
The Queen: Art and Image, National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, United Kingdom
Magnum: Contact Sheets, Fundación Canal, Madrid, Spain
- 1999–2000
Magna Brava: Magnum's Women Photographers, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- 1997
Solo: *Eve Arnold*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- 1989
Magnum Photos exhibition, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
- 1984
Photography (Winter 1984): The Family of Man, 1955–1984, MoMA PS1, New York, USA
- 1983
Magnum Photos exhibition, Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, USA
- 1980
Solo: *Eve Arnold: In China*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA
- 1966
The Family of Man, Musée de l'État, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
- 1960
The Family of Man, Floriade, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Photographs for Collectors, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA
- 1959
The Family of Man, Touring exhibition: National Theatre, Warsaw, Poland, American National Exhibition, Sokolniki Park, Moscow, Russia
- 1958
The Family of Man, Touring exhibition: Museum of Design, Zurich, Switzerland, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland, Musée Rath, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1957
The Family of Man, Touring exhibition: Kalemegdan Pavilion, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria, Museum of Applied Arts, Oslo, Norway, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1956
The Family of Man, Touring exhibition: Cleveland Museum of Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, Saint Louis Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium, Royal Festival Hall, London, United Kingdom
- 1955
The Family of Man, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA
Touring exhibition: Minneapolis Institute of Art, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, USA, Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Berlin, Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany



Books

1976 – *The Unretouched Woman*

1978 – *Flashback! The 50s*

1980 – *In China*

1983 – *In America*

1985 – *The Making of White Nights*

1987 – *Marilyn Monroe: An Appreciation*

1988 – *Private View: Inside Baryshnikov's American Ballet Theatre*

1989 – *All in a Day's Work*

1991 – *The Great British* — also published as *Eve Arnold in Britain*

1995 – *In Retrospect*

1996 – *Keepsakes: The Photography of Eve Arnold in Retrospect*

1999 – *Magna Brava: Magnum's Women Photographers* — co-authored publication

2001 – *Ciné-Roman*

2002 – *Eve Arnold: Film Journal*

2004 – *Handbook* (With Footnotes)

2005 – *Marilyn Monroe*

2009 – *Eve Arnold's People*

Posthumous Publications

2012 – *All About Eve* — posthumous monograph edited by Brigitte Lardinois

2024 – *Marilyn Monroe by Eve Arnold* — revised and expanded posthumous edition of Arnold's 1987 book