

# SUSAN MEISELAS

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b. June 21, 1948; Baltimore, Maryland

B.A. Sarah Lawrence College, 1970

Ed.M. Harvard University, School of Education, 1971

Honorary Doctor in Fine Arts, Parsons School of Art, 1986

Honorary Doctor in Fine Arts, The Art Institute of Boston, 1996

Honorary Doctor in Humane Letters, Columbia University, 2016

Freelance photographer, member of Magnum Photos since 1976

## Author

*My Life for Love / Nicaraguita*; Steidl / ifa, 2016

*Prince Street Girls*; Yellow Magic Books, 2013

*Encounters with the Dani*; Steidl/ICP; 2003

*Pandora's Box*, Trebruk/Magnum Editions; 2001

*Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History*; Random House; 1997;

Reprint, Univ. of Chicago Press 2008

*Nicaragua, June 1978-July 1979*; Pantheon; 1981; Aperture; 2008, 2016

*Carnival Strippers*; Farrar, Straus & Giroux; 1976; revision Steidl/Whitney; 2003

## Editor

*Chile from Within* ebook MAPP 2013

*Chile from Within*; W.W. Norton; 1990

*El Salvador: Work of 30 Photographers*; Writers & Readers; 1983

*Learn to See*; Polaroid Foundation; 1975

## Films

*A Family in History*, co-directed & co-produced with Alfred Guzzetti, 2011

*The Windmill Movie*, Executive Producer, 2009

*Reframing History*, co-directed & co-produced with A. Guzzetti & Pedro Linger Gasiglia, 2004;

*Pictures from a Revolution*, co-directed & co-produced with A. Guzzetti & R.P. Rogers, 1991; distributed by Kino International

*Living at Risk*, co-directed & co-produced with A. Guzzetti & R. P. Rogers, 1985, distributed by New Yorker Films

*Voyages*, directed by M. Karlin, writing & photography by Meiselas, 1985, produced for Channel 4, England

## **Awards**

Guggenheim Fellowship, 2015  
Alice Austen Award for the Advancement of Photography, 2014  
Harvard Arts Medal, 2011  
Luma Historical Book Award, *In History*, 2009  
Krazna Kraus And/or Book Award, *In History*, 2009  
Lucie Documentary Award, 2008  
Centenary Award, Royal Photographic Society, 2006  
Cornell Capa Infinity Award, ICP, 2005  
Rockefeller Foundation, Multi-Media Fellowship, 1995  
Hasselblad Foundation Prize, 1994  
Maria Moors Cabot Prize, Columbia Journalism School, 1994  
Missouri Honor Medal, Missouri School of Journalism, 1994  
MacArthur Fellowship, 1992  
Lyndhurst Foundation, 1987  
Engelhard Award, Institute of Contemporary Art, 1985  
National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, 1984  
Photojournalist of the Year, ASMP, 1982  
Leica Award of Excellence, 1982  
Robert Capa Gold Medal, Overseas Press Club, 1979

## **Exhibitions: One Woman**

2016 *Carrying the Past, Forward* Fotografie Forum Frankfurt  
*Crossings over the U.S./Mexico Border* Galerie Hug, Paris  
2014 *Determined Lives: Carnival Strippers & Nicaragua*, Magnum Print Room, London  
*Prince Street Girls*, Pelayo 47, Madrid  
2013 *Prince Street Girls*, Galerie Hug, Paris  
2010 *In History: Carnival Strippers, Nicaragua & Kurdistan*, Hood Museum, Dartmouth  
*Pandora's Box*, The Wapping Project, London  
2008 *In History: Carnival Strippers, Nicaragua & Kurdistan*, International Center for  
Photography, New York  
*Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box*, Stephen Bulger Gallery,  
Toronto, Canada  
2007 *Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box*, Cohen Amador Gallery,  
New York  
2006 *Reframing History* Fotografins Hus, Stockholm  
*Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box* Open Eye, Liverpool  
2004 Scout Gallery, London  
*Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box*, Stephen Daiter Gallery,  
Chicago  
*Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box*, Rose Gallery, Los  
Angeles

- 2003 *Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box* FOAM, Amsterdam  
*Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box* Canal de Isabel II, Madrid
- 2000 *Carnival Strippers*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1998 *Intimate Strangers: Carnival Strippers & Pandora's Box*, Leica Gallery, New York
- 1994 Hasselblad Center, Goteborg, Sweden
- 1990 *Crossings: Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Borders*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
- 1984 *Mediations: Nicaragua*, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
- 1982 *Mediations: Nicaragua*, Camerawork, London, England  
*Mediations: Nicaragua*, Side Gallery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England
- 1981 *Nicaragua* FNAC Gallery, Paris, France
- 1977 *Carnival Strippers*, AM Sachs Gallery, New York

**Exhibitions: Group**

- 2016 *Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection* Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 2015 *Collaborative Archives: Connective Histories* LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York  
*Being Kurdish*, Hinterland Gallery, Vienna  
*Images of Conviction: The Construction of Visual Evidence*, Le Bal, Paris  
*The Memory of Time: Contemporary Photographs at the National Gallery of Art*, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.  
*Mobilizing Memory – Vienna*, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna  
*Sideshow*, Yale School of Art, New Haven  
*Not Yet. On the Reinvention of Documentary and Criticism of Modernism 1968-1989*, Reina Sofia, Madrid
- 2014 *Conflict, Time, Photography*, Tate Modern, London  
*American Photography: Recent Acquisitions from The Museum of Modern Art*, Paris Photo, Paris  
*Eyes Wide Open! 100 Years of Leica Photography*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg,  
*Mobilizing Memory: Women Witnessing*, DEPO, Istanbul  
*Women in War*, Daegu International Photography Biennale, Korea  
*Postcards from America*, Milwaukee Museum of Art, Wisconsin  
*Backstage*, Magnum Gallery, Paris  
*Envisioning Human, Rights* Berkeley Art Museum, California  
*Forensic Aesthetics*, Pauza Gallery, Krakow  
*Re-Framing History*, Galerie Lelong, New York
- 2013 *160 Actions To Make A Jacket*, Look 3 Festival of the Photograph, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2013
- 2012 *Revolution vs. Revolution*, Beirut Art Center
- 2010 *Anti-Periodismo*, La Virreina, Barcelona  
*Engaged Observers: Documentary Photography since the 1960s*, J. Paul Getty Museum  
*Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance & the Camera*, Tate Britain
- 2009 *Elles*, Centre Pompidou, Paris

- Kreyol Factory*, Parc de la Villette, Paris
- 2008 *Darkside*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Zurich  
*The War of Images and the Images of War*, Brighton Photo Festival, UK  
*Disposable People*, The Hayward, London
- 2007 *Immigrante Madrid*, Canal de Isabel II, Spain  
*Big Picture: Provisions for the Arts of Social Change*, New York
- 2006 *Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History*, Gwangju Biennial, South Korea  
*Carnival Strippers and Reframing History Les Rencontres d'Arles*, Arles, France  
*Post.doc?*, Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, Greece  
*Beautiful Suffering*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Ma.  
*New York, New York*, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
- 2005 *After the Fact*, First Festival of Photography, Berlin  
*Mirror, Mirror*, Centre Cultural de Belem, Lisbon
- 2003 *Strangers: The First ICP Triennial of Photography and Video*, New York
- 2002 *Open City: Street Photographs since 1950*, Museum of Modern Art Oxford
- 2001 *Photoworks in Progress*, Nederlands Foto Instituut, Rotterdam
- 2000 *Picturing the Modern Amazon*, New Museum, New York  
*Magnum Degrees*, Biblioteque Nacional, Paris
- 1998 *Art in Freedom*, Museum Boijmans, Rotterdam
- 1996 *Facing History*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris  
*Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History*, Menil Collection, Houston
- 1989 *In Our Time*, International Center of Photography, New York  
*Los Vecinos*, Museum for Photographic Arts, San Diego, Ca.  
*The Art of Photography*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
- 1986 *On the Line*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1984 *El Salvador*, Museum for Photographic Arts, San Diego, Ca.
- 1982 *New Color Work*, Fogg Museum, Cambridge, Ma.

### **Selected Collections**

Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey  
The Jewish Museum, New York  
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC  
Museum of Modern Art, New York  
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
Library of Congress, Washington DC  
Hasselblad Center, Sweden  
Centre Pompidou, Paris  
Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany  
Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois  
St. Louis Museum of Art, Missouri

Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, Ca.  
George Eastman House, Rochester, New York  
Fogg Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Ma.  
University of California, Riverside, Ca.  
Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland  
Haverford College, Pennsylvania  
International Center of Photography, New York  
Hood Museum, Dartmouth, New Hampshire  
Corcoran Museum, Washington D.C.

### **Select Bibliography— Articles & Essays, by & about**

- 2014 *Aperture 214: Documentary, Expanded*; Guest Editor of issue & "Photography Expanded," in conversation with Chris Boot, p. 27-31 2014  
Davies, Lucy. "Blending In" *British Journal of Photography*, April 2014
- 2013 Ritchin, Fred. *Bending the Frame: Photojournalism, Documentary, and the Citizen*; p. 38, 42, 88, 127, 128 *Aperture*, 2013  
Davenport, Meredith. "House of Pictures: A Conversation with Susan Meiselas", *Afterimage*, 41.1, pp. 8 - 15
- 2012 "Body on a Hillside," from *Picturing Atrocity: Photography in Crisis*, p. 117-122, Reaktion Books, 2012  
Hirsch, Marianne. *The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture After the Holocaust*, Columbia University Press, 2012
- 2011 "Return to Nicaragua: The Aftermath of Hope," from *Rites of Return: Diaspora Poetics and the Politics of Memory*, p. 166-170, Columbia University Press, 2011
- 2010 Harrison, J. "A Lens on History," *Harvard Magazine*, November-December 2010  
"Susan Meiselas in Conversation with David Company," *American Suburb X*, October 2010
- 2008 Berger, John. "Susan Meiselas, Nicaragua," *Aperture*, p. 24-31, Winter 2008  
Bui, Phong. "In Conversation," *The Brooklyn Rail*, November 2008  
Snider, Heather. "Susan Meiselas, Pandora's Box," *Eyemazing*, p. 45-49 Fall 2008  
Kelley, Kevin J. "A New York Photo Exhibit Revisits Vermont's Girlie Shows," *Seven Days*, November 19, 2008  
The Associated Press. "NYC spotlight on photographer known for Nicaragua," *The New York Times*, October 2, 2008  
Nayeri, Farah. "'Comfort Women,' Exploited Maids Show Slavery's Face in Photos," *Bloomberg.com*, October 8, 2008  
Johnson, Ken. "Lives in a Danger Zone, Captured and Revisited," *The New York Times*, p. E34, September 26, 2008

- Jamal, Nawzad. "Everyday life in history," *SOMA: An Iraqi-Kurdish Digest*, Issue no. 38, p. 17, April 11-24, 2008
- 2006 J. Garnet and S. Meiselas, "On the Rights of Molotov Man," *Harpers Magazine*, p. 53-58, February 2007
- "Annual Review," *World Press Photo*, June 2007
- New York Times*, August 11, 2007
- Ei8ht Photojournalism*, Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 66-68, June 2006
- Joanna Heatwole and Mariola Mourelo, "Extending the Frame," *Afterimage*, p. 17-20, March/April 2006
- "For the Record," *Digital Photographer*, Issue 43, p. 52-55, Spring 2006
- Koppel, L. "Found Film, and a Peek Through a Mentor's Eyes," *The New York Times*, p. B3, April 8, 2006
- Sekula, A. "A Portable National Archive for a Stateless People: Susan Meiselas and the Kurds," *Camera Austria 95*, 2006
- 2004 Leith, D. "Susan Meiselas," *Bearing Witness*, Random House, p. 234-254, 2004
- Hackett, R. "Lost People, Found Images," *Lifestyle*, p. E1, E3, May 4, 2004
- 2003 Wolf, S. "Behind the Ballyhoo." May 30, 2003
- "Susan Meiselas: Master," *American Photo on Campus*, p. 10-16, March 2003
- Fletcher, J. "Another way of telling the story," *British Journal of Photography*, p. 16-18, October 1, 2003
- 2002 Goldberg, J. "The Great Terror," *The New Yorker*, p. 52-75, March 25, 2002
- "The Prince Street Girls," *Granta 80*, p. 65-95, Winter 2002
- Jauffret, M. "Susan Meiselas: Portrait," *Paris Photo*, p. 82-89, September/October 2002
- 2001 Smith, J. "Roll Over: The Snapshot's Museum Afterlife," *Afterimage*, Issue 29, September/October 2001
- 2000 Jette, R. *The Artful Mind*, p. 14-15, December/January 2000
- Carr, C. "She Works Hard for the Money," *Village Voice*, p. 46-51, July 4, 2000
- Östör, Á. "Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History," *American Anthropologist*, Volume 102 #4, p. 883-886, December 2000
- 1999 Morath, I. *Magna Brava: Magnum's Women Photographers*, Prestel, 1999
- Halliday, F. "Review of 'Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History,'" *Rethinking History*, Vol. 3, no. 3, p. 363-365, 1999
- Lau, G. "Women's Work," *British Journal of Photography*, p. 17, December 1999
- Bliss, S. "Show and Tell," *Photo Insider*, p. 14-15, July/September 1999
- Howard, M. "In the Shadow of History: Kurdistan," *Kathminerini*, p. 3, June 28, 1999

- Pelizzari, M. A. "Review of 'Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History,'" *Afterimage*, Issue 26, March/April 1999
- Coleman, S. "Interview with Susan Meiselas," *Photo Metro*, vol. 17, no. 153, Spring 1999
- Sullivan, T. "Stories of the Vanquished," *PDN's PIX*, vol. 5, p. 12, February/March 1999
- Whiting, S. "Shooting the Revolution," *San Francisco Chronicle*, p. E1-E2, E4, February 6, 1999
- 1998 Hopkinson, A. "Review of 'Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History,'" *Portfolio*, Issue no. 27, p. 70, 1998
- Merewether, C. "Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History: The Remaining Evidence," *Netherlands Foto Institute*, p. 1-11, 1998
- Rowley, A. "Show World," *Village Voice*, p. 137, October 13, 1998
- Loke, M. "The Erotic as Another Sort of War," *The New York Times*, p. E 40, October 2, 1998
- Roth, K. "Photograph Collector Puts Kurdistan on Map," *Daily News*, September 16, 1998
- "Archives of Abuse," *Grand Street*, vol. 17, no. 2, Fall 1998
- Makiya, K. "Review of 'In the Shadow of History,'" *Doubletake*, p. 131-133, Fall 1998
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- LeClair, T. "Kingdom of Desire," *The Nation*, p. 25-29, March 23, 1998
- Singer, D. S., "Review of 'Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History,'" *Aperture*, no. 151, p. 78-79, Spring 1998
- Haworth-Booth, M. "Kurdish Palimpsest," *Creative Camera*, Issue 350, p. 44, February/March 1998
- Meyer, K. E., "Poets and Warriors: Review of 'Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History,'" *The New York Times Book Review*, p. 33, February 22, 1998
- Dreifus, C. "A Trip into Kurdish History Takes Over a Life," *The New York Times*, p. B13, January 10, 1998
- 1994 "En Route from Kurdistan," *Camera Austria 47/48*, p. 53-61, January 1994
- 1993 "Some Thoughts on Appropriation and the Use of Documentary Photographs," *Exposure*, vol. 27, no. 1, p. 10-15, 1993
- Harris, M. "Susan Meiselas: Kurdish Project," *Aperture*, no. 133, p. 24-33, Fall 1993
- Sekula, A. "Photography and the Limits of National Identity," *Culturereport*, p. 54-55, Fall 1993
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- 1991 "A Sense of Direction: Ted Welch in Conversation with Susan Meiselas," *The British Journal in Photography*, p. 12-13, July 11, 1991
- 1990 "The Border," *Witness Magazine*, Premier Issue, p. 30-35, 1990
- 1989 "Appropriation and Documentary Photographs," *Exposure*, vol. 27, no. 1, p. 10-15, 1989
- 1987 Ritchin, Fred. "Susan Meiselas: The Frailty of the Frame, Work in Progress," *Aperture*, no. 108, p. 32-41, Fall 1987
- Squires, Carol. "Foreign Intrigue," *American Photographer*, p. 54-63, September 1987
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- 1985 Desnoes, E. "The Death System," *On Signs, Baltimore*. P. 39-42, 1985
- 1984 Emerson, G. "Susan Meiselas at War," *Esquire*, p. 165-168, December 1984
- Lyon, D. "Art is Politics: A Review of 'El Salvador and a Vanishing World,'" *Aperture*, no. 96, Fall 1984
- Ritchin, Fred. "The Photography of Conflict," *Aperture*, no. 97, p.22-27, Winter 1984
- Soloman-Godeau, A. "Guatemala: A Testimonial at Cayman," *Art in America*, p. 130-131, January 1984
- 1982 Taylor, L. "Susan Meiselas- Photographer," *British Journal of Photography*, p. 1348-1350, December 17, 1982
- Bosworth, P. "The Best and the Brightest," *Working Woman*, September 1982
- Urquhart, R. "Review of 'Nicaragua: June 1978-July 1979,'" *Views*, vol. 3, no. 4, Summer 1982
- "Photography and Historical Consciousness: Nicaragua, 1978-79," *Studies in Visual Communication*, vol. 8, no. 2, Summer 1982
- Polemis, C. "Colour of War; Susan Meiselas in Nicaragua," *Creative Camera*, no. 205, January 1982
- 1981 Kozloff, M. "Review of 'Nicaragua: June 1978-July 1979,'" *Artforum*, vol. 20, no. 3, p. 76-79, 1981
- Goldberg, V. "Review of 'Nicaragua: June 1978-July 1979,'" *Art In America*, vol. 69, no. 9, p. 29, 1981
- Imrie, T. "Nicaragua: June 1978-July 1979," *British Journal of Photography*, p. 1201-1203, November 20, 1981
- Rosler, M. "A Revolution in Living Color: The Photojournalism of Susan Meiselas," *In These Times*, June 17-30, 1981
- Shames, L. "Susan Meiselas," *American Photographer*, March 1981
- 1979 Elman, R. "Photographs by Susan Meiselas: Nicaragua: A People Aflame," *GEO*, Charter Issue, p. 32-60, 1979



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Ellenzweig, A. "Arts Review- Susan Meiselas," *ARTS*, p. 34-35, January  
1977

### **Academic Positions**

- 2012-15 Adjunct Professor, New York University, Tisch School of the Arts  
2005-12 Professor, Masters of Photographic Studies, Leiden, Holland  
2002-07 Fellow, Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley  
1999 Globalization Fellow in Human Rights, University of Chicago  
1998 Visiting Lecturer, Harvard University, Carpenter Center  
1992 Graduate Seminar Instructor, Cal Arts, Los Angeles  
1991 Gahan Fellow, Harvard University, Carpenter Center

### **Consultancy & Curatorial Projects**

- 2016 SIR (Something In Residence), Interactive Telecommunications Program, New  
York University, Tisch School of the Arts  
2012-13 Creative Consultant during two workshops at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi to the  
book *Lest We Forget Emirati Family Photography 1958– 1999*  
2010- Co-Curator of *Coal & Ice*, traveling exhibition and catalog for Asia Society,  
Center on US-China Relations.  
1997-2015 Consultant to Open Society Foundations Documentary Photography Project  
co-curator of *Moving Walls* exhibits focused on social justice and human rights.  
1975 Center for Understanding Media; New School for Social Research, NY.  
Training public school teachers in visual literacy approach for the classroom.  
1974-75 Artist-in-Residence, South Carolina Arts Commission & Mississippi Arts  
Commission; teaching photography and animation film in rural communities.  
1972-75 Consultant, teaching photography in New York City public schools for  
Community Resource Institute