



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Fotografiska's Spring Exhibition Welcomes Visitors into the World of Photography Legend Elliott Erwitt

**This spring, Fotografiska Tallinn presents a retrospective exhibition of the legendary photographer Elliott Erwitt (1928–2023), titled *Through the Playful Eyes of Elliott Erwitt*. Spanning seven decades of Erwitt's creative career, the exhibition features nearly 100 photographs that showcase the pinnacle of street photography and highlight his distinctive visual style — one that masterfully captures the wit, charm, and playfulness of everyday life.**

The exhibition is Fotografiska's tribute to Erwitt's extraordinary journey and talent. Known for his rare ability to be in the right place at the right time, Erwitt's visual language is marked by a subtle wit that captures the warmth, playfulness, and emotional richness of everyday life, often revealing deeper layers of meaning. The exhibition presents his most iconic black-and-white images alongside lesser-known works, including a selection of color photographs from later years. The grand opening, accompanied by special events, will take place on March 20–21. The exhibition will remain open in Tallinn until the end of August.

Born in Paris in 1928 to a Russian émigré family, Erwitt spent his early years in Milan before moving to Los Angeles as a teenager. It was there that his passion for photography took root. Later, in New York, he expanded his skills in filmmaking and built connections with some of photography's most influential figures, including Edward Steichen and Robert Capa — the latter a co-founder of **Magnum Photos**.

Erwitt's professional photography career took off in 1949 when he returned to Europe, capturing life in France and Italy with his Rolleiflex camera. In 1953, Robert Capa invited him to join Magnum Photos, and by the late 1960s, Erwitt had become the agency's president. Over the years, he built a remarkable career in photojournalism, fashion, and advertising, while also producing documentary and comedy films, including 18 productions for HBO.

His lens documented history in the making, from White House moments — capturing President Nixon and a mourning Jacqueline Kennedy — to intimate portraits of cultural icons like Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly, and Andy Warhol.

*Fotografiska is a contemporary cultural hub located in Tallinn's Telliskivi Creative City, where photography, art, and culture come together. Open late into the evening, the venue simultaneously hosts three to four diverse exhibitions. Each year, Fotografiska presents over ten exhibitions featuring a variety of photographic genres and artists to the public. The museum offers flexible ticket pricing based on the day and time of the visit. Young people and children are always welcome free of charge and have access to special educational programs. Fotografiska is a place for the senses and experiences, featuring a Michelin Green Star-awarded restaurant, a café, a rooftop garden, a wine bar, and a shop. Every week, the venue hosts a range of thought-provoking, immersive, and entertaining events.*

Erwitt's sharp visual wit and extraordinary talent solidified his legacy as one of photography's most influential figures. **Maarja Loorents**, Head of Exhibitions at Fotografiska Tallinn, highlights his ability to use humor to emphasize life's deeper themes and emotions. "Elliott captured life in all its richness, masterfully seizing the most striking moments. He never placed himself above his subjects — whether people or dogs — always elevating them, which is the mark of a truly great photographer. Bringing his work to Tallinn at this scale has been a long-held dream, and we are thrilled to open the spring season with this exhibition," Loorents remarked.

The opening night of Elliott Erwitt's exhibition will take place on [Thursday, March 20, at 7 PM](#). The event will feature personal memories shared by filmmaker **Douglas Sloan**, as well as a screening of Sloan's short documentary about the photographer. The exhibition opens to the public on March 21, with [a special guided tour](#) led by Sloan at 6 PM.

In addition to Erwitt's retrospective, Fotografiska is showcasing two other exhibitions: [a solo exhibition](#) of legendary Estonian sports photographer **Lembit Peegel**, highlighting Estonia's sports culture from the 1970s to the 1990s, and [White Nights in Wonderland](#), where Chinese street and fashion photographer **Feng Li** captures the vibrant absurdities of urban everyday life. Both exhibitions run until May 18.

The exhibition *Through the Playful Eyes of Elliott Erwitt* has been curated by Jessica Jarl, Global Director of Exhibitions Fotografiska, and Maarja Loorents, Head of Exhibitions at Fotografiska Tallinn, in collaboration with the local team and Magnum Photos. All photographs are courtesy of Elliott Erwitt / Magnum Photos.

Header:

*(left)* France, Paris, 1989. Eiffel Tower 100th anniversary © Elliott Erwitt / Magnum Photos  
*(right)* Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain, 1995 © Elliott Erwitt / Magnum Photos

A selection of Elliott Erwitt's photos can be found and downloaded [here](#).

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