

A PHOTOGRAPHER OF MATISSE: LUCIEN HERVÉ

Cisors for shadow and light

4 April - 1 June 2014 — Musée Matisse, Nice

In its vocation to become a reference center on the work of the painter, the Musée Matisse has established a collection of photographs depicting the life and the work of the artist, realized by renowned photographers, such as Hélène Adant (1903-1985) — the most present of them with Matisse after the war —, Brassai (1899-1984), Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004), Alexander Liberman (1912-1999), as well as Maurice Bérard (1924-2002), Pierre Boucher (1908-2000), Lucien Hervé (1910-2007), Dmitri Kessel (1902-1995), Serge Lido (1906-1984), Paul Louis (1905-1989), André Ostier (1906-1994), Roger Schall (1904-1995) and Michel Sima (1912-1987).

Begun in 1986¹ with the exhibition "Matisse photographs" based on a set of Hélène Adant's photographs, this collection consists today of three hundred and thirty two prints, regularly highlighted by temporary exhibitions. These bear witness to the meeting of a photographer with the painter. The presentation of this photographer's art permits to understand how he has looked at Matisse in his artistic environment.

The museum, which proceeds regularly to new acquisitions, is particularly attentive to the development of this photographic collection in connection with important themes of Matisse's work and participates, by loans, in the standing of the museum in France and abroad.

The Musée Matisse houses seven photographs by Lucien Hervé, stemming from donations and acquisitions, the last of three original prints in 2005, presented on the occasion of a tribute to Lucien Hervé by the museum, following his death in 2007.

The exhibition which brings together loans of Madame Judith Hervé, the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris² and the collection of the Musée Matisse, presents portraits of Henri Matisse made by Lucien Hervé and an overview of his photographic work:

- His relation to the world of architecture and the work of Le Corbusier, his eye on the Chapel Notre-Dame-du-Haut in Ronchamp and on the Thoronet Abbey in our region
- Photographs of streets and posters, underlining the innovative vision of the photographer in the composition of the photographic space, which becomes graphic with the play of black and white, and in his later use of color.

¹ Museum of fine arts, Nice, 1986.

² In 2009, the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, received from Madame Judith Hervé, widow of the photographer, a donation of 63 vintage prints.