

Robert Capa

Close Enough – Iconic vintage photographs from the Kogan Collection,
including the majority of the “Magnificent 11” – the only surviving images from
the D-Day Landings

Messums Wiltshire

11 June – 10 July 2022

Press Preview Monday 6 June, 12:00pm – RSVP inc lunch

Private View Friday 10 June, 6:30pm



Robert Capa, Death of a loyalist militiaman, Córdoba front, Spain, September 5, 1936
Vintage gelatin silver print

Illustration by courtesy of Messums/the Kogan Collection

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The depiction of conflict has profoundly influenced the visual language of photography, both the approach to subject matter and through the evolution of related technologies. First recorded on film and circulated through illustrated magazines and television imagery, the front line experience was recorded and shared. More recently social media platforms and digital cameras have made that sharing shockingly immediate. Photographic images

of war continue to shape our visualisation and our understanding as well as opening up wider apprehensions around the engagement in conflict.

The central piece in this exhibition is Capa's original Leica camera which he used to take his earliest photographs. Exhibited for the first time in Wiltshire, the camera offers a rare insight into Capa's image-making process and forthcoming extraordinary photographic journey.



Robert Capa, US troops assault Omaha Beach during the D-Day landings, Normandy, June 6, 1944
Vintage gelatin silver print
Illustration by courtesy of Messums/the Kogan Collection
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A further highlight of the exhibition, and of considerable historical significance, will be the display of a group of Capa's iconic photographs taken on Omaha beach during the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944. Only 11 images survived from numerous rolls of the film Capa exposed due to a darkroom accident during processing and these surviving negatives have become known as 'The Magnificent Eleven'. The exhibition will showcase six of these extraordinary images which provide unique documentation of the event. The press preview for the exhibition will take place on 6 June 2022, the anniversary of this momentous event.

Photographs of anonymous soldiers and civilians will sit alongside portraits of luminaries, such as Trotsky and Steinbeck. *Close Enough* highlights the inclusive nature of Capa's work encompassing as it does the suffering, tenderness, humour – and wonder – of the human condition.

David Kogan will be giving a walk through the collection on Saturday 11 June at 11:00.

The Kogan Collection is one of the largest private collections of conflict photography in the UK and has, to this date, never been shown. David Kogan OBE, historian, journalist and former Magnum Photos CEO, started this collection 20 years ago, with a particular interest in significant events of modern history and their photographic documentation. With more than 350 prints dating from 1895 to 2015, a group of 800 vintage NASA photographs, first and limited-edition photography books, *Life*, *Picture Post* and *Time* magazines and artefacts, the Kogan Collection offers the immediacy of first-hand documents of history, as well as an in-depth and comprehensive view of the history of photojournalism and documentary photography in Europe and North America.



Robert Capa, Doesn't mind the heat, somewhere in France (Saint-Sauveur-Le-Vicomte), June 16 1944
Vintage gelatin silver print

Illustration by courtesy of Messums/the Kogan Collection
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PRESS

For further information and press images, please contact: press@messumswiltshire.com

MESSUMS WILTSHIRE is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn and surrounding buildings with exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is a 2,000 sq ft exhibition space on Cork Street behind the Royal Academy. It hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions for our contemporary artists and is home to our photography department.