

NEWS | NOVEMBER 16, 2021

## The International Center of Photography Receives Historic Gift



COURTESY OF THE ICP

The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room at the International Center of Photography.

New York — The International Center of Photography (ICP) is excited to announce a recent major gift from The Bern Schwartz Family Foundation to name The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room, adjacent to ICP’s William Randolph Hearst Library at 79 Essex Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room will house ICP’s expert team of librarians and specialists who will act as an essential resource to more than 3,500 students who partake in over 300 courses at ICP each year. Faculty at ICP will be able to include on-site visits to The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room in their curriculum.

This gift provides ICP students with several enriching opportunities, including hands-on learning experiences and assistance navigating professional research interests. Librarians and specialists at ICP supported by this gift will be able to direct students toward archival materials, publications, and other resources to help develop their photographic vision.

Adjoining the library and ICP’s administrative offices, The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room will provide students with access to ICP’s unique photographic special collection, including first editions of mid-20th-century American and European documentary photography books, illustrated periodicals and the digitized archives of Robert and Cornell Capa, Chim, Weegee, and LIFE Magazine. In the new facility, ICP’s students will have a rare opportunity to study unscanned negatives, audio materials, historic Lower East Side imagery through a space to engage intimately with the collection.

“To study from the source, to handle the pages of our histories – the dedicated Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room means that our community, from our students and alumni to our instructors and staff as well as photography’s historians to our interested neighbors, will all have the opportunity to learn directly from the very books that illustrate our discipline’s historical beginnings, as well as the important histories of ICP’s founders, and the legacy of photography in our neighborhood in the Lower East Side,” says Anne Massoni, Managing Director of Education at ICP. “We are thrilled that this resource will be available to our community for generations to come.”

Since the 1970s, ICP has been building its extensive collection of art books, periodicals, and exhibition catalogues. Connected to The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room, The William Randolph Hearst Library is a central hub for more than 70,000 students, visiting scholars, and the public. This library space contains a rotating selection of ICP’s best resources and archival materials from its 40,000-volume collection of books.

The Bern Schwartz Family Foundation’s historic contribution to ICP parallels the re-opening of its on-site School Full-Time Programs on October 4, 2021. Additionally, the recent arrival of ICP’s new Executive Director, David E. Little on September 13, 2021 brings a resurgence to ICP’s commitment to uplifting and embodying the practice of socially concerned photography.

“We could not be more grateful to The Bern Schwartz Family Foundation for their longstanding friendship with ICP and are honored to name this intellectual center in our new home,” says ICP’s Executive Director, David E. Little. “The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room is a unique resource in the Lower East Side dedicated to photographic research and remains a testament to the Schwartz’s legacy and the shared values between Bern and Ronny Schwartz and ICP. It will serve as a vital scholarly resource for our international cohort of practicing artists and visitors for generations to come.”

A critical selection of Bern Schwartz’s dye transfer photographic prints was donated by the Foundation to ICP’s collection in 1983 and was the focus of the exhibition *British Contemporaries: Portraits by Bern Schwartz* at ICP’s museum the same year. The exhibition highlighted a wide range of distinguished Britons who sat for Bern Schwartz in 1977 and 1978 including Sir Laurence Olivier, Lady Diana Cooper, Alistair Cooke, the Duke of Marlborough and David Hockney among others. This longstanding relationship between Schwartz and ICP continues with the addition of The Bern and Ronny Schwartz Special Collections Room.

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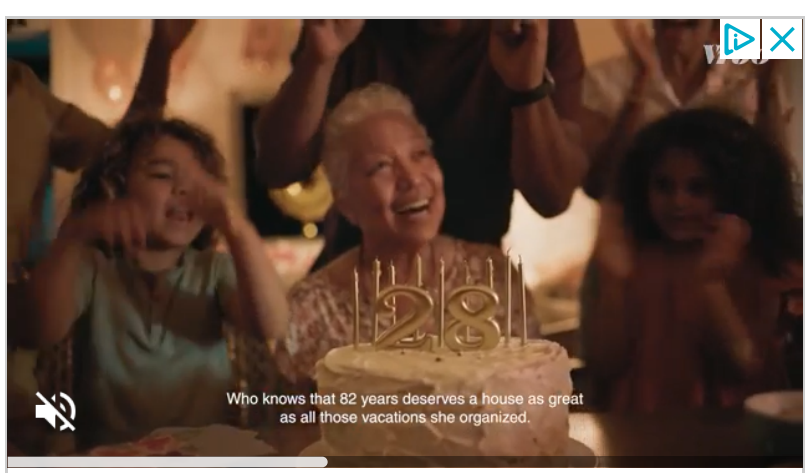
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