

## “DISCOVERING PAST ICONS”, THE AFP’S PHOTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT IN PARIS THIS AUTUMN

With an exceptional auction of 200 fine art prints and the first NFTs in its history, a major exhibition at Ellia Art Gallery in the heart of Paris and the publication of a book offering a look at a century of history in 300 photos, Agence France-Presse is honouring its photographic heritage this fall.

From October 26 to November 5, 2022, Ellia Art Gallery will be exhibiting in the Marais district of Paris 200 collector’s prints from the photo archives of AFP, the world’s oldest news agency. The agency is offering visitors an exceptional selection, sometimes iconic, sometimes unpublished, which at the end of [the exhibition will be auctioned off](#) in the gallery itself by Elsa Joly-Malhomme (Ader Entreprises & Patrimoine, expert: Antoine Romand) and on drouot.com.



The [exhibition-sale](#) offers a dive into the history of news photography. From the Paris Commune in 1871 to the fire at Notre-Dame in 2019, via the Great War, the Liberation of Paris, the first French women’s vote, the raging fists of boxer Marcel Cerdan, actor Jean-Paul Belmondo’s radiant smile and the modernity of Josephine Baker.

Many of the images capture the atmosphere of their era. They surprise us, chill us, delight us... and above all reveal photographic treasures and the unique eye of each photographer.

“The pioneering curator of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, John Szarkowski, who was one of the first to bring news photography into the museum, felt that it had everything to gain by being considered a genre that was more poetic than historical. This sale plunges us into the poetry of the news photo,” says Marielle Eudes, director of photo special projects at AFP.

The event will be marked by the sale of the first digital single editions (NFTs) in the history of the agency. In collaboration with [laCollection.io](#), a partner of the British Museum, three NFTs will be offered to collectors: a digital duplicate of the very first AFP dispatch and two iconic images from the news of the last few decades - Serge Gainsbourg burning a 500 franc note on television, and Bernie Sanders’s mittens, an image that has gone around the world and generated countless memes.

“The growing community of crypto-collectors and blockchain technology are now paving the way for new ways of engaging with art, culture and heritage. We have therefore included our first NFTs in the exhibition and in this sale,” Eudes said.

The images are being showcased in *AFP, une épopée photo* (AFP, a photo epic) on 17 October 2022 by Fisheye. It offers “a sensitive diary of history” and demonstrates that news photographs can “resist the wear and tear of their time”, writes Michel Poivert, a photography historian, in the preface.

All of the funds raised will go towards safeguarding and restoring the agency’s photographic collection in order to ensure the preservation of this priceless historical, cultural and artistic heritage.

The lots offered for sale are very high quality modern prints made by the Dupon laboratory, and offered as unique copies, signed and certified by AFP as “special edition N°1/1”.



Actress Marlene Dietrich signs autographs at Longchamp race course in Paris in 1939. © AFP



French suffragettes demonstrate for women's right to vote on 27 October 1934 in Nantes. © AFP



A woman kisses a soldier from France's 2e DB during the liberation of Paris on 25 August 1944. © AFP



Men look at a car that fell from a cliff on the Normandy coast in the 1930s. © STF / AFP



Two women look at turtles in a pet shop window in February 1947 in New York. © Eric Schwab / AFP



A model wearing an Haute Couture evening dress poses beside the Venus de Milo on 28 September 1948 in the Louvre. © Louis Foucherand / AFP



French President Charles De Gaulle is given a ticker tape welcome in San Francisco on 27 April 1960 during an official visit to the United States. © Sam Schulman / AFP



Yellow jersey Lance Armstrong of the United States avoids the Spaniard Joseba Beloki who fell during the ninth stage of the 90th Tour de France on 14 July 2003. © Joël Saget / AFP



Volunteers from the Sonko Rescue Team fumigate a street to stop the spread of Covid-19 on 6 April 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya. © Yasuyoshi Chiba / AFP



Senator Bernie Sanders waits for the start of Joe Biden's inauguration as the 46th president at the US Capitol on 20 January 2021 in Washington, DC. © Brendan Smialowski / AFP

Images are available for media use uniquely for coverage of the exhibition-sale AFP De l'argentique à l'iconique at the Ellia Art Gallery, or the AFP photo book AFP, une épopée photo.. Authorised use : a maximum of three photos (please contact us if you wish to use more). No cropping, and mandatory credit and caption.

“Discovering past icons”

**AFP photo exhibition**

From 26 October to 5 November 2022,  
opening hours 11h00 to 19h00

**Ellia Art Gallery**

10, rue de Turenne  
75004 Paris

**AFP Photo Auction**

Saturday 5 November 2022  
at 14h00

**Ellia Art Gallery**

Auctioneer: Elsa Joly-Malhomme  
([Ader Entreprises & Patrimoine](#))

Expert: Antoine Romand

It will be broadcast on [drouot.com](#)



**AFP, une épopée photo**

**Un journal sensible de l'histoire à travers 120 ans d'archives argentiques**

195 x 280 mm

340 pages

45 €

On sale mid-October 2022 and available for pre-order at Fnac and then on the [site Fisheye](#)

**Partners for this exhibition-sale:**



*About AFP*

*AFP is a leading global news agency, providing 24/7 coverage of world news across all fields. Benefitting from the strength of a network of 450 photographers spread across the world, AFP's International Photo Service, recognised by its peers for its quality and its diversity, is rewarded each year at the biggest international awards in photojournalism. Built on the expertise of its photographers and photo editors, AFP's photo offer is complemented by the production of more than 70 partner agencies.*

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**Press Contact:** Coline Sallois -Tel. : +33 (0)1 40 41 45 60 - [coline.sallois@afp.com](mailto:coline.sallois@afp.com)