



Todd Webb, American Photographer (1905-2000)

BIO

In 1905, Charles Clayton ("Todd") Webb III was born in Detroit, Michigan. Having been a successful stockbroker in the 1920's, he lost all of his earnings, and then some, in The Crash. During the Depression, Webb prospected for gold, worked as a forest ranger, and wrote short stories that have gone unpublished. It was during this exploratory period in the 1930s that he first picked up a camera. His interest and love for photography soon crowded out his writing ambitions, and he was able to do the two things he loved the most: travel, meet people, and photograph them.

In 1938 Webb joined the Chrysler Camera Club in Detroit, where he met aspiring photographer Harry Callahan. Through a workshop from Ansel Adams, Webb's interest in the sharp focus technique of "straight photography" was confirmed. After serving in World War II, Todd Webb moved to New York where he nurtured a friendship with Alfred Stieglitz and his wife Georgia O'Keeffe who introduced him to Beaumont Newhall, and later Newhall curated the first major exhibition of Webb's photographs for The Museum of The City of New York. Also during this time, Todd worked for Roy Stryker and the Standard Oil Company.

In 1949 Todd Webb returned to Paris, and met his wife Lucille, remaining in France for the next four years. In both 1955 and 1956, Todd Webb was awarded two successive John Simon Guggenheim fellowships to photograph the pioneer trails that early America settlers followed to Oregon and California. While his contemporary, Robert Frank drove across the country during these years, Todd walked and photographed as he moved from East to West.

Up until the 1980's, Todd Webb photographed and produced a unique body of work, which has attained an important place in the annals of American photographic history. Frequently referred to as "an historian with a camera," Webb's rich images document life all over the world. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and is included in numerous museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Minneapolis Art Institute, and the Chicago Art Institute.

Todd Webb died in May, 2000 at the age of 94 in Central Maine. His life was like his photographs; at first they seem very simple, without obvious tricks or manipulation, but upon closer examination, they are increasingly complex and marvellously subtle.

SELECTED MUSEUM & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts

Akron Art Musuem, Akron, Ohio

Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, Pennsylvania

The American Embassy, Paris, France

Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

Biblioteque Nationale, Paris, France

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine

Boston Athenaeum, Boston, Massachusetts

Carnegie Museum, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, Maine

Center for Creative Photography, Tuscon, Arizona

Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois

Colby College Art Museum, Waterville, Maine

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

The David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado

George Eastman House, Rochester, New York

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California

Graham Nash Collection, Los Angeles, California

Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Historic New Orleans Collection & Archives of American Art, New Orleans, Louisiana

Institute of Art, Detroit, Michigan

The International Center of Photography

Judy and Leonard Lauder Collection, New York, New York

Lehigh University Art Gallery, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Michael and Judy Mattis, Scarsdale, New York
Middlebury College Museum of Art, Middlebury, Vermont
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Museum of Fine Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, New York
Museum of the City of New York, New York
The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University
The National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
The National Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, Illinois
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri
New Mexico Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico
New York Public Library, New York
Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois
The Painting Gallery, Munich, Germany
Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, California
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine
Rice University, Houston, Texas
Rochester Institute of Art, Rochester, New York
Royal Photography Society, London, England
San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, Texas
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California

Smith College Art Museum, Northampton, Massachusetts

The Smithsonian, Washington, DC

University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Worcester Museum of Art, Worcester, Massachusetts

PUBLICATIONS

Gold Strikes and Ghost Towns, Doubleday Press, 1961

The Gold Rush Trails and the Road to Oregon, Doubleday Press, 1963

Nineteenth Century Texas Homes, University of Texas Press, 1966

Georgia O’Keeffe, The Artist’s Landscape, Twelvetimes Press, 1984

Looking Back: Memoirs and Photographs of Todd Webb, University of New Mexico Press, 1991

Todd Webb: Photographs of New York and Paris, Hallmark Cards, Inc., 1986

Todd Webb: New York, Paris, O’Keeffe, Friends, Mega Press, Japan, 1998

Todd Webb: A Photographer’s Welcome Home, University of Maine Press, 2008

After Atget: Todd Webb Photographs New York and Paris, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, 2011

New York, 1946, 21st Editions, 2014

I See a City: Todd Webb’s New York, Thames & Hudson, 2017

Todd Webb in Africa: Outside the Frame, Thames & Hudson, 2021

DOCUMENTARIES

“Honest Vision: A Portrait of Todd Webb.” Written, Produced, and Directed by James “Huey” Coleman in 1996. Winner of the Silver Plaque, Chicago International Film Festival.

EXHIBITIONS

1946	One Man Show	165 Prints - Museum of the City of New York
1947	One Man Show	Delgado Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana
1947	One Man Show	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
1948	Group Show	In And Out Of Focus - Museum of Modern Art, New York
1948	Group Show	Fifty Photographs By Fifty Photographers, Museum of Modern Art,

		New York
1950	One Man Show	Museum of Art, Munich, Germany
1950	One Man Show	Paris Architecture - Architectural Center, Wuppertal, Germany
1951	One Man Show	65 Photographs of Paris - US Embassy, Paris
1953	Group Show	Diogenes With A Camera - Museum of Modern Art, New York
1953	Group Show	National Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
1954	One Man Show	80 Photographs by Todd Webb - Eastman House, Rochester, New York
1955	Group Show	The Family Of Man - Museum of Modern Art, New York
1956	One Man Show	90 Photographs by Todd Webb - Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois
1957	Group Show	70 Photographers See New York - Museum of Modern Art, New York
1958	Group Show	U.S.I.S. Exhibit at the Brussels World Fair - A mural four feet high and twenty-four feet long, of one block on Sixth Avenue, photographed in 1948
1959	Group Show	Art USA - New York City Coliseum, New York
1960	Group Show	Photographs For Collectors - Museum of Modern Art, New York
1962	One Man Show	Museum of Modern Art, Kalamazoo, Michigan
1962	One Man Show	University of Indiana
1962	Group Show	Eliot Porter, Laura Gilpin and Todd Webb - Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico
1962	Group Show	Ideas and Images - 10 photographs by each of 10 photographers sponsored by the American Federation of Art - show traveled throughout the US and Europe
1962	Group Show	Les Grandes Photographes de Notre Temps - Hotel de Ville, Versailles, France
1965	Group Show	New York By Day And Night - Lincoln Center, New York
1965	One Man Show	Todd Webb Photographs - 101 Prints - Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas
1966	One Man Show	Todd Webb Photographs - Texas A&M, College Station, Texas
1966	Group Show	Guggenheim Fellows in Photography - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1966	One Man Show	19th Century Texas Homes - 100 Prints - Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas
1967	One Man Show	100 Todd Webb Photographs - Museum of The South West, Midlands, Texas
1967	Group Show	Invitational Photographic Exhibition - San Jose State College, San Jose, California
1967	One Man Show	51 Todd Webb Photographs - University of South Western Louisiana
1968	One Man Show	USA Arts - Provence, France
1969	Group Show	Harlem On My Mind - Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
1971	One Man Show	New Mexico Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico
1971	One Man Show	Maison de la Tour - St. Restitut, France
1974	One Man Show	19th Century Public Buildings - Amon Carter Museum,

		Fort Worth, Texas
1977	One Man Show	Rinhart Gallery, New York
1977	One Man Show	Westbrook College, Portland, Maine
1979	One Man Show	Prokapas Gallery, New York
1980	One Man Show	University of Southern Maine, Gorham, Maine
1982	Group Show	In Sequence - Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
1982	One Man Show	Maine Arts Festival - Walker Museum of Art, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
1984	One Man Show	Barn Gallery, Ogunquit, Maine
1988	One Man Show	Barridoff Galleries, Portland, Maine
1991	One Man Show	Scheinbaum & Russek, Santa Fe, New Mexico
1991	One Man Show	Evans Gallery, Portland, Maine
1992	One Man Show	Houk-Friedman Gallery, New York
1994	Group Show	Of, For and By Georgia O'Keeffe - Whitney Museum at Stamford, Stamford, Connecticut
1995	One Man Show	New York 1946 - Vintage Prints - Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
1995	One Man Show	Georgia O'Keeffe: The Artist's Landscape - Photographs by Todd Webb – Oglethorpe University Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia
1996	One Man Show	In conjunction with screening of "Honest Vision" - a film of Todd Webb's life – Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine
1996	One Man Show	Todd Webb - Looking Back - A Retrospective Show of 100 prints - Payson Gallery at Westbrook College, Portland, Maine
1997	One Man Show	Georgia O'Keeffe - Photos by Todd Webb - Scheinbaum & Russek, Santa Fe, New Mexico (in conjunction with opening of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, July 1997)
1997	One Man Show	Paris - Vintage prints from the 1940's & 50's - Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
1998	One Man Show	Todd Webb Retrospective - Photos of New York, Paris and O'Keeffe – Touring Japan (Osaka & Tokyo)
1998	One Man Show	O'Keeffe: The Artist's Landscape, Photographs by Todd Webb – Dubuque Art Museum, Dubuque, Iowa
2000	One Man Show	Photographs by the late Todd Webb: The American West, O'Keeffe, New York, Paris – Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, Maine
2000	Group Show	Walker Evans & Company Exhibition – Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York
2000	One Man Show	Todd Webb: Paris Photographs – Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, Massachusetts
2000	One Man Show	Georgia O'Keeffe: The Artist's Landscape, Photographs by Todd Webb – Durango Arts Center, Durango, Colorado
2000	Group Show	O'Keeffe on Paper – National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
2001	One Man Show	Todd Webb: Vintage Contact Photographs of Paris and France – Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, Maine
2001	Group Show	Interiors and Signs of the Times: An Exhibition of 20th Century

2002	One Man Show	Photographs – University of New England, Portland, Maine Todd Webb: Looking Back – Camera Obscura Gallery, Denver, Colorado
2002	Group Show	Gotham: Photographs of New York – Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, Massachusetts
2002	Group Show	Georgia O’Keeffe Through the Eyes of Friends: Portraits and Landscapes – Scheinbaum & Russek, Ltd., Santa Fe, New Mexico
2002	One Man Show	Georgia O’Keeffe: The Artist’s Landscape – Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2003	Group Show	Histories of Photography – The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York
2004-2005		Georgia O’Keeffe and the Sublime – University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Fresno, California; Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana; Hunter Museum, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Boise Art Museum, Boise, Idaho
2005	One Man Show	Todd Webb at 100 – Blaine House, Augusta, Maine
2005	One Man Show	Todd Webb at 100: “Welcome Home Series” – Aucocisco, Portland, Maine
2006		Georgia O’Keeffe: Color and Conservation – Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, New York; Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2008	One Man Show	Todd Webb: Joy Without Measure - University of Maine Museum of Art, Orono, Maine
2008	Group Show	Yosemite 1938: On the Trail with Ansel Adams and Georgia O’Keeffe from the National Museum of Wildlife Art – Rockwell Museum of Western Art, Corning, New York
2008	Group Show	Georgia O’Keeffe and the Camera: The Art of Identity – Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine
2011	One Man Show	After Atget: Todd Webb Photographs of New York and Paris, Bowdoin College Museum of Art
2015	One Man Show	Todd Webb: O’Keeffe and the American West, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, Ogunquit, Maine
2015	One Man Show	Georgia O’Keeffe Exhibition (exact title TBD), Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina
2016	One Man Show	An Homage á Paris, Todd Webb Photographs, Portland, Maine
2017	One Man Show	Todd Webb’s New York, The Curator Gallery, New York, New York
2017	One Man Show	A City Seen; Todd Webb’s New York, Museum of the City of New York, New York
2017	Group Show	Georgia O’Keeffe: Living Modern, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, New York
2017	Group Show	Georgia O’Keeffe: Living Modern, Reynolda House, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
2018	Art Fair	The Photography Show presented by AIPAD, Pier 94, New York City
2018	Group Show	Georgia O’Keeffe: Living Modern, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem,

		Massachusetts
2018	Group Show	The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas
2018	Group Show	The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina
2019	Art Fair	The Photography Show presented by AIPAD, Pier 94, New York City
2019	Group Show	Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
2021	One Man Show	Todd Webb in Africa: Outside the Frame, Mineappolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2021	One Man Show	Todd Webb in Africa: Outside the Frame, National Museum of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
2021	Group Show	Georgia O'Keeffe, Photographer, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, Texas
2022	Group Show	Georgia O'Keeffe, Photographer, The Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts
2022	Group Show	Georgia O'Keeffe, Photographer, Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado
2023	Group Show	Georgia O'Keeffe, Photographer, Cincinnati Museum of Art, Cincinnati, Ohio
2023	One Man Show	Todd Webb in Africa: Outside the Frame, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine
2023	One Man Show	America and Other Myths, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, Texas