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Period 1

Mr. Sandoval

Famous Photographer: Elliot Erwitt

Elliot Erwitt was born on July 26th, 1928. Raised by Russian parents, he was born in the city of Paris, France, and later on moved to Milan, Italy where he spent his childhood. But then him and his parents migrated back to Paris in 1938. Next, they immigrated to New York, then Los Angeles in 1941. While attending High school in Hollywood High, he started working in a commercial darkroom in the year 1944. He started gaining a passion for photography. From there on, he moved to New York in 1948, where he got to meet Edward Steichen, Robert Capa, and Roy Stryker. After spending the year 1949 traveling all around France and Italy, he returned to New York and began working as a professional. He got drafted into the army in 1951 and took pictures of the soldiers and people during his time there with them, while stationed in Germany and France. Elliot Erwitt then was invited to join Magnum Photos by 1953 thanks to Robert Capa. Erwitt even started making films by 1970. His documentaries include “Beauty Knows No Pain,” “Red White and Bluegrass,” and prize winning “Glass Makers of Heart.” Elliot Erwitt is still living.

Of course everybody has a style of taking a photo even if it’s not on purpose. Well, Erwitt is very simple but his pictures have humor usually. He has a passion for taking photographs of dogs. Dogs this. Dogs that. That’s just how he does it! He likes his photographs in black and white to not be complicated with color. “*When you work for other people, you have to produce what they expect from you. When you’re working for yourself you just do whatever you like."* –Elliott Erwitt.

Sincerely I think his pictures are the simplest things yet, not complicated at all, but yet very truthful and admiring. *“I’ve found it (photography) has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”-Elliott Erwitt.* His credo is practically just saying to do simple things that give you a choice of making your own decision of what its meaning means. And like said before, he likes being humorous to make people smile and laugh yet see a different aspect to the objects in his pictures, like canines! He’s satisfied as long as his pictures speak for him, because that’s the whole point of photographs to explain themselves without words.

I couldn’t find his salary, but I’m expecting he’s making very good money especially since I found a photograph that costs $3,000 and it was his personal best and in the smallest size. So this proves that he’s making great money from each picture and book and film he has sold. Also because he’s been a professional for so many years and working for Magnum, I’m assuming he’s winning at least 100K per year.

Finally, I would just want to be like this amazing photographer, of course in my own taste in photography styles though. I enjoy seeing his photography, they really did make me laugh especially the nudist wedding one because I saw a different perspective of a wedding and it was pretty inspiring to see that a photo like that could be so famous also. I really like his photography and he’s like a role model to me now. One of his famous photographies and personal best is “Santa Monica, California, 1955” AKA “California Kiss.” As a gelatin silver print photograph with a signed in ink in print pargiv au recto, signed in pencil au verso, with a negative date of 1955, depending on what size you’d want it in varies the pricing. The smallest 11x14 inches costs $3,000, 16x20 is $4,500, and 20x24 inches costs $5,500.

**Bibliography**

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