



Nude, East Sussex Coast, 1959

BILL BRANDT

3 June to 29 August, 2021



East End girl dancing the 'Lambeth Walk', March 1939

Fundación MAPFRE is presenting the first retrospective in Spain on Bill Brandt (1904-1983), considered one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century. The exhibition brings together 186 photographs developed by Brandt himself who, over the course of five decades, made use of almost all the photographic genres: social documentary, portraiture, the nude and landscape.



A Snicket in Halifax, 1937



East Durham coal-searchers, 1937

Born Hermann Wilhelm Brandt in Hamburg in 1904 to a wealthy family of Russian origin, after a period living in Vienna and Paris Brandt decided to settle in London in 1934. Within the context of growing hostility to all things German due to the rise of Nazism, he attempted to erase all traces of his origins to the point of stating that he was British by nationality. This concealment and the creation of a new personality enveloped Brandt's life in an aura of mystery and conflict that is directly reflected in his works.

This aspect combines with the photographer's interest in psychoanalysis, which he underwent during his youth in Vienna. A few years earlier, in 1919, Sigmund Freud had published the essay *Das Unheimliche* in which he analysed this term, which is generally translated as "the uncanny" in the sense of something that produces unease. Almost all Brandt's photographs, both the pre-war social documentary type and those from his subsequent more "artistic" phase, possess a powerful poetic charge as well as that very typical aura of strangeness and mystery in which, as in his own life, reality and fiction are always mixed.

The structure of the exhibition, which is divided into six sections, reveals how all these qualities - in which identity and the concept of “the uncanny” become the principal ones - blend together in the work of this eclectic artist. Above all Brandt was considered a *flâneur* or stroller in a way comparable to his admired Eugène Atget, whom he always considered one of his masters. The exhibition also reveals the relationship between Brandt’s images and Dada and Surrealism. This interest is reflected in clear references to psychoanalytical issues, expressed through increasingly sombre tones and an obsession with collecting found objects.

The exhibition is completed with a range of documentation, a number of Brandt’s cameras and examples of the illustrated press of the period that published some of his most iconic images. All this has been made possible courtesy of the Bill Brandt Archive in London and the Edwynn Houk Gallery in New York.

Francis Bacon on Primrose Hill, London, 1963



Nude, Campden Hill, London, 1963



BILL BRANDT

CURATOR

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DATES

3 June to 29 August, 2021

OPENING TIMES

Mondays (except public holidays):

2pm to 8pm

Tuesdays to Saturdays:

11am to 8pm

Sundays and public holidays:

11am to 7pm

(Last access: 30 minutes
before closing time.

Visitors must leave the galleries
10 minutes before closing time)

TICKET PRICES

Standard: 5 € €

Reduced: 3 € €

Free entry: Mondays

(except public holidays)

GUIDED TOURS

7 €

Times and booking: on this web page

AUDIO GUIDE

Spanish and English

BOOKSHOP

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OF THE EXHIBITION:: #ExpoBillBrandt

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