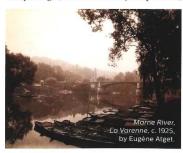


DECISIVE MOMENTS

The glamour of Paris—and its daily life is the focus of a show highlighting 60 years of French photography

In a shop window photographed by Eugène Atget, a row of corsets resembles a host of wingless angels. A sequence of images by André Kertész, shot from high above, records the effort to upright a fallen horse on a cobblestone street. A spirited girl slides down a banister, a moment of graceful whimsy documented by her young cousin, Jacques-Henri Lartigue. In these and other indelible scenes, the photographers of early-20th-century France chronicled everyday life with a passionate appreciation of the oblique angle, the uncommon juxtaposition,



and the offhand gesture that pulls back the curtain on the human condition.

Drawing its title from a quote by Henri Cartier-Bresson, "Live and Life Will Give You Pictures: Masterworks of French Photography, 1890-1950" is the first exhibition of the medium at Philadelphia's Barnes Foundation—and the perfect complement to the museum's wealth of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings. (Renoir, whose works form the cornerstone of the Barnes's holdings, appears in a snapshot by Degas, who turned to photography late in his career; Picasso and Matisse pop up in portraits by Cartier-Bresson.) While the more than 170 photographs on view range from fashion-magazine still lifes to Surrealist dreamscapes, Paris is undeniably the star, whether in Ilse Bing's scenes of cancan dancers in blurred motion at the Moulin Rouge, Brassaï's nocturnal forays into cafés and cathouses, or Atget's transcendent catalog of the soon-to-disappear architectural remnants of the medieval city (through January 9, 2017; barnesfoundation.org).

