

Tadeusz Rolke. Biography.



Tadeusz Rolke (b. 1929) is one of the first photographers who started producing Polish reportage photography. He has been photographing for over 70 years now. He was born in Warsaw, participated in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and was brought away to compulsory labor to Germany. In the early 1950s, he was arrested and sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment for membership in a non-existent organization Universalist Movement. He served 2 years in the Stalin's jail. Since he had a status of a political prisoner afterwards, he could not be admitted to study

art criticism.

The career of a journalist photographer started in the mid 1950s with the publications in the magazines 'Świat Młodych' and 'Stolica.' In the 1960s, his works were published in the 'Polska', 'Ty i Ja' and 'Przekrój.' Afterwards, he worked for ten years in the West for the 'Stern', 'Die Zeit', 'Der Spiegel', 'Brigitte', 'Geo', and in the 'Art', the most important magazine in Germany about art where he had worked for over 20 years. He worked together with the Inter Nations Agency who were promoting the FRG. Upon his return to Poland (during the military law), he continued to work with the Western press. After the transformation period, he also worked with the new magazines, with the 'Magazyn Gazety Wyborczej' among others.

He was part of artistic milieus focusing on the Avant-Garde galleries of modern art. He was also friends with many artists he worked for. Creative work of Tadeusz Rolke is close to the spirit of Henri Cartier Bresson. He takes photographs of everyday life of provincial areas, the streets of big cities, and art milieus. For the last 25 years, he has worked on the series on the history of Jews 'We Used to Be Here'. Another separate large subject line going through his entire creative life is women. These are fashion photographs, portraits, real life. He was also making documentary photos, reportages, portraits, advertising images, fashion photographs, real life and staged pictures. His archive includes over 100 thousands of shots.

In 2010, he was awarded the Golden Medal 'The Merited Culture Worker Gloria Artis' ('Zasłużony Kulturze *Gloria Artis*'). He presents his creative work at numerous exhibitions. His photographs were published in the albums *Tadeusz Rolke. Photographs 1944-2005* (*Tadeusz Rolke. Fotografie 1944–2005*); *A Woman Is...* (*Kobieta to...*); *We Used to Be Here. Last Traces of the Lost Culture* (*Tu byliśmy. Ostatnie ślady zaginionej kultury*); *Тадеуш Рольке* (*Tadeusz Rolke*).