

Enlivened by his continued artistic development, Robert Frank once wrote: “I am confident that I can synchronize my thoughts to the image, and that the image will talk back—well, it’s like being among friends.” In 1958, after completing the body of work that would become the landmark photobook *The Americans*, Frank embarked on what he identified as a period of creative exploration. Driven by an impulse to find forms to communicate his ideas and feelings, Frank continued to expand his artistic practice over the next six vibrant decades until his death in 2019. He moved between still photographs and moving images, extended beyond single prints from handheld cameras to montages of multiple components, and returned frequently to artist’s books populated by his own words and pictures. Coinciding with the centennial of Frank’s birth, this exhibition delves into his restless experimentation across mediums, as well as his dialogues with other artists and his communities.

The exhibition borrows its title, *Life Dances On*, from Frank’s poignant 1980 film, in which the artist reflects on the individuals who have shaped his outlook. Like much of his work, the film is set in New York City and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where he and the artist June Leaf moved in 1970. In the film, Leaf looks at the camera and asks Frank, “Why do you want to make these pictures?” In an introduction to the film’s screening, he answered: “Because I am alive.”

Organized by Lucy Gallun, Curator, with Kaitlin Booher, Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow, and Casey Li, 12 Month Intern, Department of Photography

Leadership support for the exhibition is provided by the Noel and Harriette Levine Endowment.

Generous funding is provided by the Alice L. Walton Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York.

Major support for the publication is provided by Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder through The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art. Generous funding is provided by the John Szarkowski Publications Fund.

In conjunction with this exhibition, the installation *Robert Frank’s Scrapbook Footage*—conceived by filmmakers Laura Israel and Alex Bingham from Frank’s previously unpublished film and video footage—is on view on Floor T2/T1.

We invite you to explore the exhibition’s accompanying publication, *Life Dances On: Robert Frank in Dialogue*, which is available in the Museum Store.

For related content and programs, visit moma.org/robertfrank.