

- 1924 Is born on November 9 in Zurich, Switzerland, to a German-Jewish family
- 1941–46 Apprentices to professional photographers in Switzerland
- 1945 Becomes a Swiss citizen
- 1947 Moves to New York City and engages in commercial photography for newspapers and magazines
- 1950 Marries the artist Mary Lockspeiser
First exhibits his photographs at MoMA
- 1951 Son, Pablo, is born
- 1952 Gathers his photographs from France, Peru, Spain, and the U.S. into the book maquette *Black White and Things* (on view at MoMA in Gallery 402)
- 1954 Daughter, Andrea, is born
- 1955–56 Receives two Guggenheim fellowships and embarks on a series of road trips to photograph what will become the book *The Americans*
- 1958 Makes the pictures known as *From the Bus, New York*, and begins filmmaking
- 1962 MoMA presents the two-person exhibition *Harry Callahan and Robert Frank*
- 1963 Becomes a U.S. citizen
- 1970 Buys a house in Mabou on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, with the artist June Leaf
- 1972 *The Lines of My Hand* is published
- 1974 Andrea Frank dies
After using 35mm film cameras for much of his career, begins to work with Polaroid instant prints
- 1975 Marries the artist June Leaf
- 1985 Makes his first major work using video
- 1994 Pablo Frank dies
- 1995 Establishes the Andrea Frank Foundation (now the June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation)
- 2009 Publishes *Seven Stories*, followed by a series of books known as his “visual diaries”
- 2019 Dies in Inverness on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, at the age of ninety-four