

SEDAT PAKAY

Photographer – Filmmaker

Sedat Pakay was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1945 and died in Hudson, NY in 2016. Growing up, Pakay attended Robert Academy and Robert College in Istanbul. He did his graduate studies in graphic design at Yale University School of Art (BFA and MFA '68), studying under Walker Evans, Paul Rand, and Herbert Matter.

Pakay began his career in 1963 primarily shooting still photographs. His work was exhibited and published in Turkey and Europe between the years of 1964-1969. Pakay did freelance photojournalism for U.S. magazines, including Holiday, Esquire, and New York, between 1968-1970. Two of Pakay's photographs were featured in the Museum of Modern Art collection in 1967. His work was also exhibited at the Smithsonian Portrait Show in 1969, and one of his photographs is currently in the Smithsonian Collection.

Pakay filmed interviews with photographer Walker Evans during 1968 and 1969, which resulted in a short film titled "Walker Evans: His Time, His Presence, His Silence" (released in 1970). Pakay also filmed painter Josef Albers in 1969. During 1970-1971, Pakay worked with writer/producer Arnold Perl on "Malcolm X" for Warner Brothers as a visual consultant and film researcher in Europe and North Africa.

Pakay filmed author James Baldwin in Istanbul during May 1970. The resultant Baldwin film, titled "James Baldwin: From Another Place", was released in 1973 and was shown in many festivals in the U.S. and abroad. A portion of this film was incorporated into the 1989 PBS American Masters biography of Baldwin.

From 1972 to 1976, Pakay was employed as a producer/director/cameraman for Compton Advertising, NYC (presently Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide), where he produced TV commercials for Proctor and Gamble, Johnson and Johnson, Iberia, and DuPont, among others. Pakay was awarded a "Clio" for a Johnson and Johnson commercial in 1975. Beginning in 1976, Pakay worked as a freelance filmmaker and photographer.

In 1989, Pakay founded Hudson Filmworks, Inc. to produce cultural documentaries and TV specials. In 1992, he received a production grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for a one-hour PBS biography titled "Walker Evans/America", a coproduction with WMHT in Troy, NY.

In March 1995, a retrospective exhibit featuring work from Pakay's 30 years in photography was opened at the Museum of Turkish-Islamic Arts in Istanbul. Five photographs were included in the Museum collection.

Pakay produced a one-hour program with Sotheby's in New York on caring for antiques, which was shown on 83 PBS stations during May 1998.

A one-man show of Pakay's photographs was exhibited at Tremaine Gallery of the Hotchkiss School during February/March 1999. His film "Walker Evans/America" had a premiere screening at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on March 12, 1999 and was broadcast nationally on PBS stations during February 2000.

A retrospective exhibit of his photographs opened at the University Gallery at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse on September 12, 2002, and traveled to Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN in November 2002.

An exhibition titled “New York 1966-2002” featuring Pakay’s photographs opened in Istanbul, Turkey during February 2003, accompanied by a book, and traveled to the Museum of Photography in Balikesir, Turkey.

Pakay produced a one-hour biography of Josef and Anni Albers, the Bauhaus artists and teachers, for PBS broadcast during late 2006. The film was shown at the Montreal Festival of Films on Art in March 2005 and at Artecinema Festival, Naples, Italy during October 2005.

Five of Pakay’s photographs were included in the exhibition “Rendez-Vous” at the Istanbul Modern Art Museum in April 2005.

Pakay lectured and had film screenings at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Lehigh University, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, Maryland Institute College of Art, Yale University Art School, Northwestern University and New York University, among others. In Turkey he lectured at the Bosphorus University, Yildiz University, and Eylul University in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Northwest African-American Museum in Seattle, WA staged a retrospective photography exhibit in 2012 chronicling the life of writer James Baldwin during his residence in Istanbul, Turkey between 1964-1970. A book titled “Bearing Witness from Another Place: James Baldwin in Turkey” was published by the University of Washington Press in tandem with the opening of the exhibition.

Pakay photographed portraits of women artists for a book, “In the Fullness of Time” published by Simon & Schuster Inc. in 2010.

Sedat Pakay’s photographs are in the collections of:

The Museum of Modern Art, NYC 1967

Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C. 1969

Museum of Turkish-Islamic Arts, Istanbul 1995

Getty Museum, Los Angeles 1995

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC 1998

University of Wisconsin 2002

Istanbul Modern Art Museum 2004

Lehigh University 2005

National Museum of African-American Heritage and Culture (Smithsonian) 2017

For more information on Sedat Pakay’s films and photographs, visit **www.sedatpakay.com**.