

Biography

1914

Born in Basel, Switzerland to Rudolph Burckhardt and Esther Iselin.

1928

Father died at age 52.

1929

Age 15, made pinhole camera and took first photograph.

1933

Traveled to London to study medicine but didn't pursue course. Began first series of city photographs.

1934

Met Edwin Denby, American dance critic and poet, in Basel. Photographed in Paris.

1935

Moved to New York and lived with Edwin Denby at 145 West 21st Street.

Met Willem de Kooning.

1936 to 38

Lived in Haiti for nine months; photographed and began making 16 mm films. Filmed 145 West 21, 1936 with Paul Bowles, Aaron Copland, Edwin Denby, John Latouche, and Virgil Thomson (the first of over one hundred films). Began lifelong series of New York photographs.

1941 to 44

Drafted into U.S. Army before citizenship finalized; stationed in Trinidad almost two years, during which time he received U.S. citizenship; photographed.

1946

Photographed in Mexico. Publication of *In Public, In Private*, poems by Edwin Denby, photographs by Rudy Burkhardt, frontispiece by Willem de Kooning (Dekker Press).

1947

Married painter Edith Schloss. First photographs of Astor Place and Flatiron Building.

1948 to 49

Photographed in Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Visited de Kooning at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. First exhibition of photographs, Photoleague Gallery, New York. Studied with Amédée Ozenfant on G.I. Bill. Birth of son, Jacob.

1950 to 64

Photographed artists in their studios, including Willem de Kooning, Joan Mitchell, Jackson Pollock, and others, for Art News.

1950 to 51

Filmed Mounting Tension, with John Ashbery, Jane Freilicher, and Larry Rivers; music by Duke Ellington. Studied painting at the Academy of Naples on G.I. Bill; lived with family and photographed in Ischia, Rome, Florence, Venice, Toscana, Umbria, and Greece; studied with Professor Bepe Guzzi in Rome.

1953 to 55

Filmed A Day in the Life of a Cleaning Woman, with Anne Porter, Fairfield Porter, Larry Rivers and Edith Schloss. Exhibition of photographs at Limelight Gallery, New York. Photographed in Spain and Morocco.

1956

Began spending summers in Maine; began lifelong series of Maine photographs. Filmed What Mozart Saw on Mulberry Street (collaboration with Joseph Cornell). Publication of Mediterranean Cities, poems by Edwin Denby, photographs by Rudy Burckhardt (George Wittenborn).

1958 to 59

Exhibition of photographs at Limelight Gallery, New York (with George Montgomery). Exhibition of paintings at Tanager Gallery, New York.

1961 to 62

Separated from Edith Schloss. Exhibition of paintings at Kornblee Gallery, New York. Filmed Shoot the Moon (collaboration with Red Grooms), with Mimi Gross, Edwin Denby, Yvonne Jacquette, and Alex Katz; music by Seymour Barab.

1964

Married painter Yvonne Jacquette; birth of son, Thomas.

1965

Bought home in Searsmont, Maine.

1967 to 75

Taught filmmaking and painting at University of Pennsylvania. Filmed Paul Taylor: Junction, with Paul Taylor and his dancers; costumes by Alex Katz; set to the music of J.S. Bach.

1968

Filmed Money, with John Ashbery, Edwin Denby, Alex Katz, John Bernard Myers, Titus Welliver; text by Joe Brainard; music by Tony Ackerman and Kim Brody.

1969

Exhibition of paintings at Green Mountain Gallery, New York.

1971

Filmed Inside Dope, with Jacob Burckhardt, Jim Carroll, Edwin Denby, William Dunas, Larry Fagin, Joan Fagin, Red Grooms, Yvonne Jacquette, Tessie Mitchell, Larry Rivers, Peter Schjeldahl, Anne Waldman; music by Tony Ackerman and John Cage.

1972

Exhibition of photographs at Gotham Bookmart, New York.

1974 to 75

Filmed City Pasture, with text by Edwin Denby, Kenneth Koch, Ron Padgett and Trevor Winkfield. Exhibition of paintings at Green Mountain Gallery, New York. Traveled to Peru with Red Grooms and Mimi Gross; filmed. Rudy Burckhardt: Photographs, Brooke Alexander Gallery, New York.

1977 to 78

Exhibition of paintings at Green Mountain Gallery, New York. Rudy Burckhardt: Photographs, Brooke Alexander Gallery, New York.

1979

Publication of Mobile Homes, text and photographs by Rudy Burckhardt (Z Press).

1980

Exhibition of photographs at Gotham Bookmart, New York. Exhibition of paintings at Blue Mountain Gallery, New York.

1983

Exhibition of photographs at Marlborough Gallery, New York. Exhibition of paintings at Green Mountain Gallery, New York. Edwin Denby died in Maine.

1985

Exhibition of paintings at Boston College.

1987

Film retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Recent Photographic Works, Brooke Alexander Gallery, New York. Exhibition of paintings at Blue Mountain Gallery, New York. Publication of Conversations with Rudy Burckhardt About Everything, by Simon Pettet (Vehicle Editions).

1988

Filed in Spain and Provence, France. Exhibition of paintings at Blue Mountain Gallery, New York. Downtown to Down East, Maine Coast Artists, Rockport, Maine.

1990 to 91

Traveled and filmed in Hong Kong. Received Brendan Gill Award, Municipal Arts Society, New York. Publication of New York Hello! by Vincent Katz and Rudy Burckhardt, (Ommation Press).

1993 to 94

Mostly Maine, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Private Moments: Public Places, Maine Coast Artists, Rockport, Maine. Publication of Talking Pictures, by Rudy Burckhardt and Simon Pettet (Zoland Books, Inc).

1995

Photographed in Bali, his only photographs in color. A Photo Retrospective, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Maine Paintings, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Rudy Burckhardt: Photographs, Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia.

1996

Selected Photographs, The Swiss Consulate, New York. Rudy Burckhardt, Sharon Horvath, Helen Miranda Wilson, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. City of Ambition, Whitney

Museum of American Art, curated by Tibor Kalman.

1997 to 98

Boulevard Transportation, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York in conjunction with the publication of Boulevard Transportation, poems by Vincent Katz, photographs by Rudy Burckhardt (Tibor de Nagy Editions). Recent Paintings, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Rudy Burckhardt: Selected Paintings, Photographs, and Films, Institut Valencia d'Art Modern (IVAM), Valencia, Spain.

1999

Maine Photographs, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Group exhibition, Together Working, curated by Judith Swirtzky, The Art Gallery, Paul Creative Arts Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham. Died August 1 in Maine at age 85.

2000

A View of Astoria, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York. Rudy Burckhardt and Friends: New York Artists of the 1950s and 60s, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York; traveled to Middlebury College Museum of Art, Middlebury, Vermont. Selected Photographs 1940 to 1999, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Remembering Rudy, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Aaron Copeland's America, Heckscher Museum, Huntington, New York. Photographing Maine, 1850 to 2000, Maine Coast Artists, Rockport, Maine. Remembering Rudy, Maine Coast Artists, Rockport, Maine.

2001

Les Années Pop 1956 to 68, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France. Documentary, Not Nude Though directed by Doris Korish.

2002

New York, New York: Photographs from the Collection, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. An Afternoon in Astoria, The Museum of Modern Art, Queens, New York. Publication of An Afternoon in Astoria by Rudy Burckhardt (The Museum of Modern Art). Rudy Burckhardt's Maine, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine. Modern Metropolis, Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. Portrait of the Art World: A Century of Art News Photographs, New York Historical Society, New York.

2003

New York Photographs, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York. Rudy Burckhardt's Maine, The New York Studio School, New York, curated by Vincent Katz. Documentary, Man in the Woods: The Art of Rudy Burckhardt directed by Vivien Bittencourt and Vincent Katz, produced by Checkerboard Film Foundation.