

**Curriculum Vitae: Ben Lifson**  
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**Current Project**  
*A Critical History of Photography*  
Yale University Press, London

**EDUCATION**

- 1965 **YALE UNIVERSITY**, New Haven, Connecticut, MA (ABD) English Literature
- 1962 **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, BA, English & French Literature
- 1961 **SHAKESPEARE INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, UK**: Advanced Studies in Shakespeare and Elizabethan/Jacobean Drama
- 1958-1960 **OBERLIN COLLEGE, OBERLIN, OH**
- 1958 **LA SORBONNE (UNIVERSITY OF PARIS), FRANCE**, studies in French language and literature

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: 1. PHOTOGRAPHY**

**TEACHING POSITIONS**

- 2002-2003 **AMARILLO COLLEGE, AMARILLO, TX** Adjunct Professor of Photography and Art History
- 1998 **BEZALEL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND DESIGN, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL**;  
Visiting Professor of Photography  
*Public lectures in contemporary and documentary photography and their relation to the history and tradition of painting; undergraduate seminars and graduate tutorials, the practice of photography.*
- 1997 **RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**;  
Visiting Lecturer, Photography
- 1996 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**;  
Visiting Lecturer, Photography
- 1996-1999 **INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY, NEW YORK**;  
Professor of Photography  
*Undergraduate seminars in Photojournalism, Travel Photography, The Photography of Everyday Life and pre-professional seminars in Building a Professional Portfolio*

- 1988 **RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND;**  
Visiting Artist and Critic, Photography
- 1984-1988 **BARD COLLEGE, ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY;**  
Professor of Photography and of The History and Criticism of Photography  
*Designed, implemented, created slide collection for, and led Bard ' s first curriculum and program, History of Photography.*
- 1984-1988 **MILTON AVERY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS, Bard College,**  
Annandale -on-Hudson, NY; Professor and Chair, Graduate Division of Photography  
*Designed, implemented and led the School ' s first MFA photography program.*
- 1984-1987 **CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK;**  
Adjunct Professor of Photography and of The History of Photography
- 1986-1987 **YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CT;** Visiting Professor of Photography,  
Graduate Faculty of Photography, School of Art and Architecture  
*Seminar in The Criticism of Photography; Weekly criticism of student work.*
- 1982-1984 **UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, PHILADELPHIA, PA;** Associate Professor of  
Photography and of The History of Photography  
*Lecture courses in The History of Photography, studio courses in Basic Technique and Artistic Principles of Still Photography.*
- 1980-1982 **YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CT.** 1. *Visiting Professor of Photography,*  
Graduate Faculty of Photography, School of Art and Architecture. (As above, 1986).  
2. *Visiting Professor, History of Photography,* Dept. of Art History (*Graduate Seminars & Undergraduate Lecture Courses*)
- 1978-1980 **FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN CENTER CAMPUS, NY;** Professor of  
Photography and of The History of Photography  
*Basic to Advanced Photography; Designed, implemented and led school ' s first History of Photography program; Basic to Advanced Photography and photojournalism courses; re-designed school ' s darkroom.*
- 1976-1977 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA;** Visiting Professor of  
Photography and Acting Chair, Department of Photography, Carpenter Center for  
Visual and Environmental Studies  
*Lecture courses, History and Traditions, Still Photography; Intermediate and Advanced Photography; Advanced Tutorials.*
- 1975 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO, LA JOLLA, CA;** Visiting  
Professor of Photography and of The History of Photography
- 1970-1974 **CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS, VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA ;**  
Professor of Photography and Chairman, Department of Photography, School of  
Design  
*Member of Founding Faculty. Designed, implemented and led entire undergraduate and graduate Photography and History of Photography program. Designed darkrooms and equipment facilities, temporary campus, Burbank, CA, 1970-71, and permanent campus,*

*Valencia, CA, 1971. Created History of Photography slide library. Instituted Visiting Lecturer Program, 1971-74: Guests included Garry Winogrand, Lee Friedlander, Frank Gohlke, Lewis Baltz, Tod Papageorge, Jerry Uelsmann.*

### **PHOTO-JOURNALISM**

1965-1980 **Free-Lance Photojournalism** for various mass media magazines including *Look*, *New York*, *Ramparts*, *Saturday Review*, corporate magazines (e.g., IBM's *Think* magazine), and university alumni magazines (e.g., Harvard, Yale, Boston University). Photojournalist and reportage assignments from PBS, the Mayor's Office, Boston, Massachusetts, various research organizations, the filmmaker Frederick Wiseman. Occasional advertising, architectural and record-jacket photography. Assistant photographer and darkroom manager for photojournalist Bob Adelman.

### **ARTIST-PHOTOGRAPHER: SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

1980 **AKRON ART INSTITUTE, AKRON, OH;** Solo Exhibition

1979 **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART (SMITHSONIAN), WASHINGTON, DC.;** Group Exhibition, Exposed and Developed

1977 **GROSSMONT COLLEGE CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION SERIES,** Grossmont, CA; solo exhibition with 40-plate catalog

1975 **EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, EDINBURGH, UK;** Group Exhibition ("Recent American Photography")

1974 **INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY AT GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE, ROCHESTER, NY;** Solo Exhibition

1974 **OAKLAND MUSEUM, OAKLAND, CA;** Group Exhibition

1970 **CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY, MIT** Solo Exhibition

## CRITICISM AND HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

### **1. Journalism: Staff Appointments**

1977-1982 **VILLAGE VOICE, NEW YORK**; Senior Photography Critic  
*Weekly and semi-weekly column: reviews, coverage of photography-world events (auctions, conferences, museum openings etc.), year-end summaries, personality interviews and profiles, state-of-the-art reports on cameras, technology.*

1978-1980 **PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER (DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS)** National Trade Magazine. New York Editor  
*Covered New York events in the general area of professional photography (including advances in equipment design and technology); maintained close and frequent contact with editorial headquarters, Des Plains; contributed monthly Report from New York column.*

### **2. Free Lance Photography Critic**

1982-Present  
Critical articles and reviews, photography and painting, for various journals and gallery publications US and abroad including *Aperture* (New York); *Artforum* (New York); *Artpresse* (Paris); *ArtLetter* (Los Angeles); *Bibliothèque Nationale* (Paris); *Connaissance des Arts* (Paris); *Creative Camera* (London); *HG* (New York); *Museum* (New York, UNESCO), *October*; *On Paper* (New York); *Popular Photography*, (New York); *Professional Photographer* (Illinois); *Portfolio* (New York), *Saturday Review* (New York); Grey Art Gallery (New York University).

### **3. Television Work: History of Photography**

1999 *Walker Evans: America* Text for 50-minute documentary on the artist, premiered March, 1999 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, broadcast throughout the U.S., 1999-2000 on PBS television stations; sponsored by WMHT-TV, Schenectady

1980 *Andre Kertesz*: Text for 50-minute documentary on the artist; screened by PBS and Channel 13, New York

### **4. Selected Books and Catalogs**

1981-1999 *Urban Prisoner: Photographs* by Matt Weber (NY, 2004) *NY: The Fifties in Focus: The Photojournalism of Jerry Dantzig* (New York, 2002); *W. Eugene Smith: Journalist, Dramatist, Poet* (San Francisco, 2000); *The Man in The Crowd: The Uneasy Streets of Garry Winogrand*, (San Francisco, 1999); *Margery Content: Photographer* (W. W. Norton, New York, 1995) *The Quillan Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Photographs* (New York, 1991); *The Art of Photography* (Royal Academy of Arts, London 1989); *John Coplans* (Musée de Marseille, 1988); *Frank Gohlke: Landscapes from The Middle of The World* (Chicago, 1988); *Lucas Samaras* (New York, 1987); *Andre Kertesz: A Lifetime of Perception* (Toronto, 1985); *Paul Strand: The Formative Years* (New York, 1983); *Eugene Atget* (New York, 1982).

## MUSEUM & GALLERY WORK, PHOTOGRAPHY

- 2002-3                   **AMARILLO MUSEUM OF ART, AMARILLO, TX** Guest Scholar
- 1989                   **ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, LONDON**, Curatorial Advisor, *Art of Photography* exhibition
- 1987-1988           **J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA**, Guest Scholar, Consultant to the Collection, & Guest Curator
- 1984-1987           **INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY AT GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE, ROCHESTER, NY**, Special Scholar, History of Photography
- 1987-1988           **INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY, CHICAGO**, Curatorial Consultant
- 1988                   **MISHKAN LE OMANUT [Museum of Fine Arts], EIN HAROD, ISRAEL**, Curator, U.S. Section, Israel Photography Biennale
- 1982-1984           **SOL MEDNICK GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHY**, University of the Arts, Philadelphia. Curator, Director and Professor of Photographic Curatorship. With seminar students, organized, publicized and implemented over twenty solo exhibitions. *Photographers exhibited included Larry Clark, Frank Gohlke, Andre Kertesz, and Garry Winogrand. Organized special exhibition of the Miller-Plummer Collection to accompany comprehensive exhibition of the same collection, Philadelphia Museum of Art Organized and implemented Visiting Photographer Lecture Series of contemporary photographers, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts; lecturers included Mac Adams, Jan Groover, Nan Goldin, and Gilles Perez.*

## PUBLIC LECTURES

- 1979-1990           Over 100 public lectures at universities and museums, US and abroad, including, Harvard; University; UCLA; Rhode Island School of Design; Drew University, NJ; California Institute of Art; Akron University; Goethe Haus NY; Queens College; Brooklyn College; J. Paul Getty Museum; Mishkan Le Omanut, Israel; International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, Rochester, NY; International Center of Photography, NY; Virginia Museum; Richmond Museum; Toledo Museum; Minneapolis Institute of Art; North Carolina Museum; Berkeley Museum, Berkeley, CA; Rochester University; **and for the U.S. Department of State Arts America Program, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, various galleries, Tel Aviv; Institute of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt; the United States Information Service, Alexandria, Egypt; and art associations in Manama, Bahrain.**

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 1993 **Rensselaer County (NY) Arts Council Grant**, Photography Criticism  
1981 **National Endowment For The Arts Grant**, Photography Criticism  
1978 **Guggenheim Fellowship**, Photography,  
1977 **National Endowment For The Arts Grant**, Photography  
1971 **National Endowment For The Arts Grant**, Photography

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: 2. MISCELLANEOUS

#### **1. Teaching Positions, English Literature and Composition**

- 2000-2001 **UNIVERSIDAD DE MONTERREY, MONTERREY, MEXICO** Professor of English and Art History
- 1990-1991 **YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY**; Adjunct Professor of Rhetoric
- 1967-1968 **BOSTON UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MA**; Instructor of English
- 1965-1967 **YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CT**; Danforth Teaching Fellow, English
- 1964-1965 **NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NC**; Instructor of English

#### **2. Print Journalism and Professional Writing**

- 1991-1992 **ROE JAN INDEPENDENT, HILLSDALE, NEW YORK** Official newspaper of Columbia County, New York (bi-weekly, circulation around 30,000): General reporting, political reporting on six of the county 's chief towns, trial reporting, police blotter, social events, elections, etc.
- 1977-1995 Various kinds of journalism and semi-journalistic work including public relations prose (*Op-Ed Page* letters) for clients like Chase Manhattan Bank and the New York City Department of Education; development prose for non-profit organizations and universities, e.g., faculty profiles for development brochure, SUNY (State University of New York) system; free-lance editing and re-writing for various publishers including Chicago University Press, Yale University Press, London, Houghton Mifflin, Scribners, *Bulletin* of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Writing tutor, BA and MA theses, Barnard College, Columbia University Teachers College, New York University. Ghost writer, fiction (one novel published).

#### **3. Translator (From the French)**

- 2004 *The Old Testament through 100 Masterpieces of Painting; The New Testament through 100 Masterpieces of Painting* (Merrell Publishers, London/New York)
- 1998 *Gustave Moreau: Magic and Symbols* (Abrams, New York, 1999)

1997 *The Metamorphosis of Flowers* (Abrams, New York, 1998)  
1997 *Diana, A Princess for the World* (Barnes & Noble, New York, 1997)

**ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS**

1962 *Woodrow Wilson Fellowship* Yale University  
1962 *Phi Beta Kappa*, University of Minnesota  
1962 *Cum Laude* B.A., University of Minnesota

