

DROPSHOP

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PRESS RELEASE

PHILLIPS' DROPSHOP ANNOUNCES LIMITED-EDITION BOX SET OF RUTH ORKIN'S *AMERICAN GIRL IN ITALY* SERIES

Includes Iconic *American Girl in Italy* Photo with Previously Unprinted Variation

Box Set to be Exhibited at the International Center of Photography in
New York Starting 7 May



Ruth Orkin
American Girl in Italy, Florence, 1951

NEW YORK – 8 APRIL 2026 – Phillips is pleased to announce the upcoming Dropshop release of Ruth Orkin's *American Girl in Italy: 75th-Anniversary Box Set Collection*. Produced in collaboration with the Ruth Orkin Photo Archive, the collection of 12 carefully selected photographs will be available exclusively from 28 April through 19 May on dropshop.phillips.com, priced at \$12,000. Produced in a limited edition of 75, the set focuses on the seminal series shot in Florence in August 1951 and expands our understanding of the iconic photograph by including the unprinted first frame (see pg. 2). The other ten photographs, including classics such as *Couple in MG*, *Jinx in Goggles*, and *Jinx in Beads*, capture the creative magic between photographer and subject, and broaden our understanding of Orkin's singular talent. All photographs are printed in a new size (14 x 18 in.) exclusive to this anniversary edition and will not be issued separately. Each box set is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by Mary Engel, the photographer's daughter and director of the Ruth Orkin Photo Archive. The first ten

purchasers will also receive the accompanying catalogue, *The Making of a Classic*, signed by Ninalee 'Jinx' Allen, the subject of the series.

Recognizing the importance of this release, [International Center of Photography \(ICP\)](#) — highly regarded for its leadership in photography and visual culture — will exhibit the complete box set in its lobby beginning 7 May and running for six weeks. The exhibit is open to the public, and visitors are invited to view the full set of prints at 84 Ludlow Street in New York.

Sarah Krueger, Phillips' Head of Photographs, New York, said, "Ruth Orkin's *American Girl in Italy* is one of the most iconic images of the Post-War period — an enduring exploration of independence, movement, and women navigating the world on their own terms. We are honored to partner with the Ruth Orkin Photo Archive on this Drop, which offers collectors a fantastic opportunity to acquire this brand-new-to-market box set. Presenting both known and unknown images together allows the work to be experienced in a way that closely reflects Orkin's original vision, elevating it beyond any single image."

Mary Engel, Director, Ruth Orkin Photo Archive, said, "It is a distinct privilege to offer this collection in partnership with Phillips. The Archive has carefully curated these photographs to celebrate the collaboration between my mother and 'Jinx' and memorialize the place this photo series has in the history of photography, and for reaffirming the power of the medium to elevate our lived experience into fine art."



American Girl in Italy (Variation), 1951



Couple in MG, 1951

ABOUT RUTH ORKIN

Ruth Orkin received her first camera — a 39-cent Univex — at the age of ten, and never really put one down. At seventeen, she made her way from Los Angeles to New York City by car, by train, and bicycled over 2000 miles through five major cities to see the 1939 World's Fair, taking photos along the way. She moved to New York in 1943, shooting baby pictures by day and nightclub portraits after dark, saving until she could afford her first professional camera.

The major magazines came calling throughout the decade. Among her early distinctions, her photograph of Geraldine Dent became the first color photo published on the cover of *Ladies' Home Journal*. Summers drew her to Tanglewood, where she photographed the great classical musicians of her era — Leonard Bernstein, Isaac Stern, Aaron Copland, Jascha Heifetz, Serge Koussevitzky — and formed friendships that would last her lifetime.

In 1951, *LIFE* magazine sent her to Israel with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and afterward she traveled to Florence, where she met fellow American art student Nina Lee Craig. Together they made a series of photographs, including *American Girl in Italy* of a young woman striding through a gauntlet of staring men outside the Cafe Gilli — part of a series titled *Don't Be Afraid to Travel Alone* that debuted in *Cosmopolitan* in 1952. It remains one of the most recognized photographs of the twentieth century.

Back in New York, she married photographer and filmmaker Morris Engel. Together they raised two children and produced two feature films, including *Little Fugitive*, which won the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival and earned an Academy Award nomination in 1953, launching the American independent film movement and inspiring the French New Wave.

In the years that followed, Orkin photographed the world from the window of her Central Park apartment — marathons, parades, protests, concerts, and the changing seasons — the subject of two widely acclaimed books, *A World Through My Window* (1978) and *More Pictures From My Window* (1983). Ruth Orkin died on January 16, 1985, in her New York apartment, surrounded by her life's work.

All photographs © Ruth Orkin.

Ruth Orkin, *American Girl in Italy*, 1952/1980

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PHILLIPS

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As Phillips marks its 230th anniversary in 2026, the house celebrates more than two centuries at the forefront of the global market for Modern & Contemporary Art, Design, and Luxury. Founded in 1796 by the charismatic auctioneer Harry Phillips, the company has, since its earliest days, offered a distinct and forward-looking approach to sales and collecting. Over the centuries, Phillips has delivered record-breaking results and landmark offerings, while also pioneering new modes of collecting via the likes of Dropshop. Through its partnership with Bacs & Russo, Phillips continues to lead the industry in watches, setting new benchmarks for excellence, innovation, and connoisseurship. Today, Phillips remains true to the entrepreneurial spirit of its founder while redefining the role of a 21st century auction house.

ABOUT DROPSHOP

Dropshop, Curated by Phillips, offers exclusive Drops by creators, for collectors. Dropshop's limited-edition releases of primary market art and objects are exclusive to the company's digital platform and conceived in partnership with the artists, collaborators, and brands shaping contemporary culture. Items are available through a timed "buy now" e-commerce model at www.phillips.com/dropshop. By redefining the dynamics of the traditional art market framework, Dropshop's goal is to connect artists, galleries, curators, institutions, and non-profit organizations with a global collecting community. Further, creators will receive a resale royalty commission for any work purchased from Dropshop that is subsequently re-offered at Phillips — an industry first.

ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips: where the world's curious and bold connect with the art, design, and luxury that inspires them. As a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century works, Phillips offers dedicated expertise in the areas of Modern and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewels. Auctions and exhibitions are primarily held in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, with representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Phillips offers a regular selection of live and online auctions, along with items available for immediate purchase. Phillips also offers a range of services and advice on all aspects of collecting, including private sales and assistance with appraisals, valuations, and financial planning.

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