



LEE MILLER
SAINT-MALO ASSIÉGÉE
13-17 AUGUST 1944

Exhibition
18 June / 29 September 2024

Opening reception on 17 June at 6 PM

This exhibition, organised by the City of Saint-Malo, benefits from the generous support of the Artémis Group, under the patronage of François Pinault.

It has been made possible thanks to Farleys House & Gallery Ltd,
Lee Miller Archives and The Penrose Collection.



« Lee Miller, Saint-Malo assiégée, 13-17 août 1944 », marking the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of France, is being held in a place of heritage and symbolism for Saint-Malo, the Victoire chapel, within the city walls.

Shortly after the death of Lee Miller (1907-1977), her son Antony Penrose and his wife Suzanna by chance discovered her extraordinary past as a model, surrealist artist and war correspondent when they unearthed her typescript and photographs of the siege of Saint-Malo from a trunk in the attic of the family home.

Despite being one of the most important photojournalists of the twentieth century, recognition for Lee Miller came much later on. Although her reports from Europe had certainly been a success - after the war she even recounted her experience in a sort of Victory Tour; haunted by the images of that time, Miller fell silent until she was ultimately forgotten.

In 1942, it was her friend and fellow traveller, the Life Magazine photographer David E. Scherman (1916-1997) who told her that as an American citizen, she could apply to become a war correspondent. In December, she was granted accreditation by the American army, a rarity for a woman. This allowed her to benefit from transport for her films, accommodation and essential army supplies, as well as travel to the scene of operations. Her photos and articles were published in the American and British editions of Vogue magazine.

After landing on Omaha Beach on 12 August 1944, she arrived in Saint-Malo on the 13th to conduct a report on the department of Civil Affairs, only to find the town still under siege. Armed with her weapon of choice, a Rolleiflex, and even though women were not allowed to be on the front line, Miller went everywhere she could, acting as an interpreter (she had lived in France for several years before the war) and assisting refugees. She demonstrated her bravery, followed the progress of the troops. She took a number of photographs that were of critical importance - notably of the napalm bombing of the town of Aleth (images that British Vogue initially approved of before choosing not to publish), and then of the city's liberation.

In roughly five days, Miller took some three hundred photos of Saint-Malo, as well as of Cancale, Dinard, Dinan and Rennes, and wrote the text to accompany her report, published under the title "*Saint-Malo... The siege and the assault... by Lee Miller, of Vogue... the only photographer and reporter present under fire*", thus constituting a meticulous work of documentation and an exceptional eyewitness account.

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Images available to the press in HD 300 dpi



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David E. Scherman, Lee Miller with children in Saint-Malo, Brittany, France, August 1944



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Lee Miller, Devastation in street, Saint-Malo, France, 15 August 1944



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Lee Miller, German prisoners march from the Citadel, while US soldiers look on, Saint-Malo, France, 17 August 1944

And for further information:

Saint-Malo Assiégée, 13-17 août 1944, Lee Miller, Paris, Éditions Hazan, May 2024



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Lee Miller, Machine gun positioned on a quay in Saint-Malo, August 1944

Information

Exhibition

« **Lee Miller, Saint-Malo assiégée, 13-17 août 1944** »

From 18 June to 29 September 2024

Chapelle de la Victoire

4, rue de la Victoire

Saint-Malo