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INVESTIGATION
STORY

VIVIAN MAIER:
NANNY & SECRET
PHOTOGRAPHER

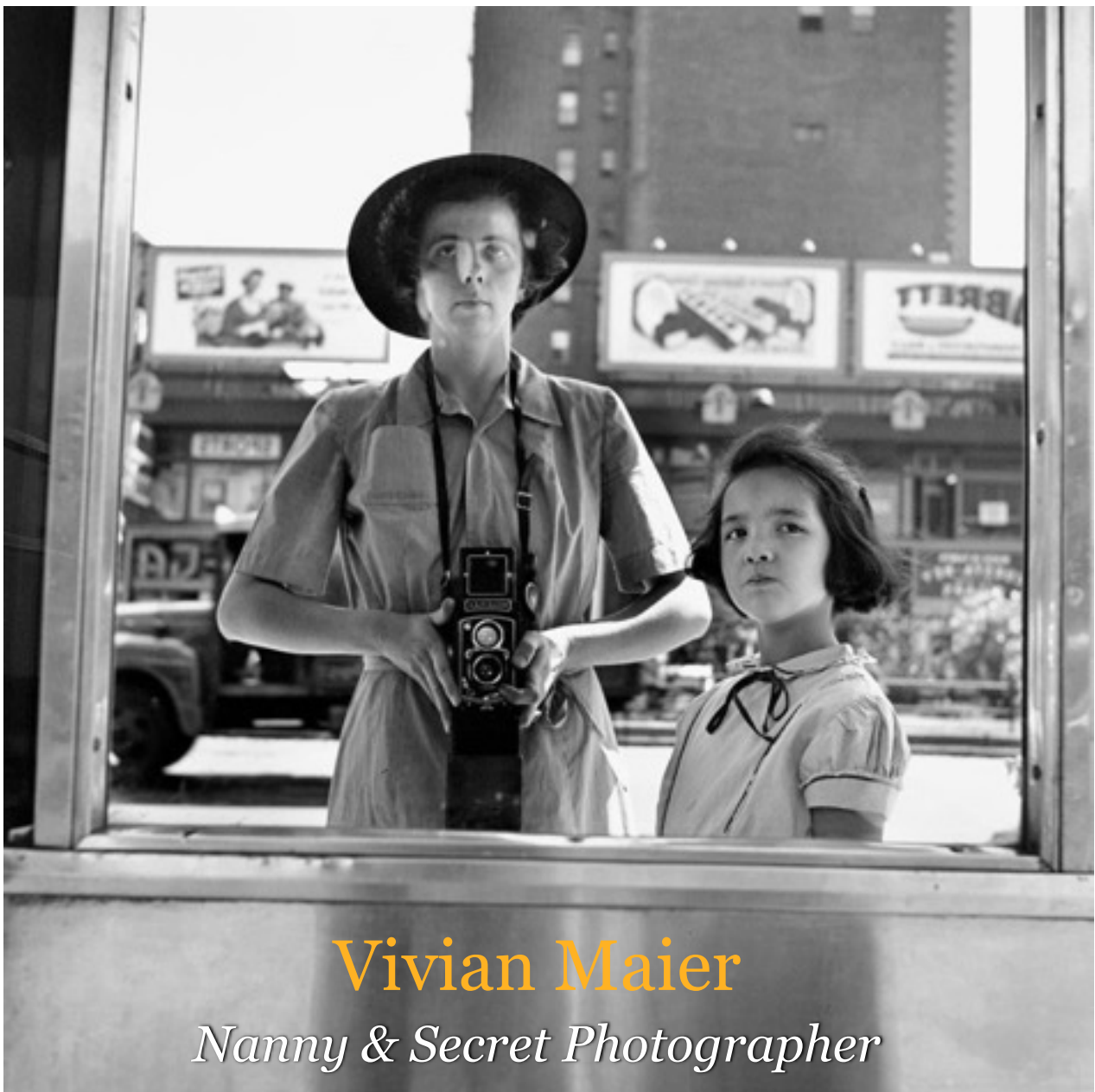


NEWS STORY
BOXING DAY FLOOD



BOOK
"ONE DAY",
BY DAVID NICHOLLS

INVESTIGATION STORY



Vivian Maier

Nanny & Secret Photographer

Full of mystery, talent and shadows, the life of Vivian Dorothy Maier has now being revealed to the world together with her impressive art.

Although now she can be considered one of the most brilliant street photographers of all time, her work was only discovered and published in 2008, by John Maloof, a young collector and historian. While researching the development of his neighborhood in Chicago, Maloof acquired some boxes full of undeveloped films at an auction. What he found once he started to develop and scan the negatives almost shocked him. Thousands of amazing, sharp, moving pictures both coloured and black and white. Not only they were technically perfect but they were also deep, humorous, irreverent. Still unaware of the story of the photographer (only her name was written on the boxes), Maloof started digging deeper in his research trying to give an answer to his questions: "Who is Vivian Maier?" and "Why is she completely unknown?".

To all the children she took care of and to their parents she was just a nanny. They describe her as intensely private, extremely intelligent, curious, fearless, funny. On the other hand many of them underline her bad temper, her being prone to strange outbursts and a bit obsessed with stockpiling almost anything she could find, from newspaper to postcards, in her room. Even though people may have different memories about Vivian, they all report the same thing: a camera was always hung around her neck. In her life she chronicled compulsively the world around her, not only by taking pictures but also recording audio tapes and super8 movies. Her subjects were of course the children she cared for and all walks of life she met. She managed to capture all kinds of humanity that the city offered her, showing its vulnerability, fragility, pain but also dignity and



Ms. Maier's pictures capture people in their most intimate moment. They never pose, they are caught absorbed in their thoughts or in their routine but at the same time they are upstanding, fragile or strong, rich or poor, funny maybe but never ridiculous.

strength. Vivian elevated people framing them in authentic streetscapes, jazzy, evocative and paradoxical at the same time, typical of American big cities.

Although she was a natural, a self-educated master of photography and she shot continuously for over 50 years, surprisingly Vivian never showed her work to anybody. Therefore she died anonymously as an old retired nanny yelling nonsense to people from a bench in a park. If it weren't for John Maloof we would probably have overlooked one of the most powerful geniuses of the 20th century.

While the public can now enjoy Vivian's art exhibitions all over the world and learn more about her life through books, articles and documentaries, some pieces of the puzzle are still missing. Her childhood stays partially hidden and shady as well as her reticence to show her works. Despite what the world can discover about Vivian, the true secret of her talent will probably remain unknown.

NEWS STORY:

BOXING DAY FLOOD



British soldiers and emergency workers evacuated residents in York, England, on Sunday after large swathes of the country's north were hit by flooding.
Credit: Ian Forsyth/Getty Images

What England experienced waking up on Boxing day last year was far from being a “holy” day.

Although the island is used to heavy rainfall and flooding, this time the effects of the torrential rain were devastating and caused damages on a large scale, involving not only rural areas but also cities and villages.

Lancashire and Yorkshire were partially overcome by water after the rivers burst their banks. Pubs, shops and houses were waterlogged and the main streets closed. Extreme measures were immediately taken by the Government who deployed almost 500 soldiers from the British Army to help the rescue team evacuate victims from their homes and build barriers along critical points with sand bags.



A 200-year-old pub was among the buildings damaged around Manchester, England, over the weekend. Credit: Paul Ellis/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

In those concerning moments the Prime Minister Cameron himself released an interview for the BBC stating that “(...)the level of rivers plus the level of the rainfall has created an *unprecedented* effect”. Despite how *unprecedented* this flooding has been, Britain has indeed experienced several large floods recently. Even though these past events instigated some criticism towards the Government this last flooding incident has prompted a larger debate about the Role of Great Britain in environmental policies and its investments in researching the effects of climate change.



SOURCES:**UK floods: Extra soldiers sent to stricken areas**

(...)Some 500 soldiers have now been brought in to deal with "unprecedented" flooding in Yorkshire and Lancashire. A thousand more are on stand-by after David Cameron vowed to help people in "their hour of need". Rescuers have been evacuating homes in York where water levels are still rising, and thousands of people in north-west England are without power.(...)

BBC News, Dec. 27, 2015

British Army Is Deployed as Flooding Submerges Northern England

(...) LONDON — The British Army stepped in on Sunday to help evacuate hundreds of people from waterlogged homes across the country, as swollen rivers and heavy rainfall brought misery to swathes of the north, and unleashed a spate of political recriminations.(...)

The New York Times, DEC. 27, 2015



Dramatic aerial footage shows the devastation of the flooding across York

UK floods: aerial footage shows streets in York underwater

Dramatic aerial footage shows the devastation of the flooding across York, with 3,500 properties at risk in the city

During the night police visited 605 properties and evacuated 92 people from their homes, taking them to rest centres at a local school.

Soldiers were mobilised this morning to join emergency services and mountain rescue teams as they help people from their homes and bolster defences with sand bags, while more than 20 roads across the city were closed after being flooded.(...)

The Telegraph, Dec. 27, 2015

-York floods: Hundreds evacuated and swathes of historic city underwater as rivers reach record levels

video of the flooding:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/york-floods-hundreds-evacuated-and-swathes-of-historic-city-underwater-as-rivers-reach-record-levels-a6787271.html>

The independent, 27, Dec. 27, 2015

BOOK

