

Artist Resources – Diane Arbus (American, 1923-1971)

[Arbus at Fraenkel Gallery](#)

[Arbus at David Zwirner](#)

[Arbus at MoMA](#)

Read some [quotes](#) by the artist compiled by David Zwirner Gallery forty years after her death.

Listen to a [rare 1971 interview](#) with Arbus, where she discusses women's liberation, how she chooses her subjects, sex, and being a mother of two daughters.

[The Museum of Modern Art](#) hosted a major exhibition in 1972 after her death. View the [master checklist](#) and some [installation images](#).

[Diane Arbus: American Portraits](#) was on view at the National Gallery of Australia in 2016, utilizing the museum's impressive collection of Arbus's work.

In 2016, *Diane Arbus: In the Beginning* was at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in New York, focusing on the first seven years of her career, from 1956 to 1962, and featuring never-before-seen works from the Museum's Diane Arbus Archive. The exhibition then traveled to the [San Francisco Museum of Modern Art](#).



Arbus in the Automat at Sixth Avenue, circa 1968
Photograph: Roz Kelly/Michael Ochs Archives

[Diane Arbus: A box of ten photographs](#) was on view at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 2019, including works produced between 1969 and 1973. Watch a [panel discussion](#) that the museum hosted about Arbus, the exhibition, and the magazine era.

The Art Gallery of Ontario launched [Diane Arbus: Photographs, 1956-1971](#) in 2020. The museum has the second largest collection of Arbus photographs in the world.

Artist Rooms: Diane Arbus was a major traveling exhibition throughout the United Kingdom of Arbus's iconic black-and-white portraits. The exhibition traveled to the [North Hertfordshire Museum](#), [Shetland Museum and Archives](#), [Gracefield Arts Center](#), and [Nottingham Contemporary](#).

Park Avenue Armory launched [Diane Arbus: Constellation](#) in 2025 to mixed reviews. Read perspectives in [Hyperallergic](#) by Hakim Bishara, [The New York Times](#) by Will Heinrich, and [The Guardian](#) by Veronica Esposito.



Arbus, circa 1949
Photograph: Allan Arbus

Diane Arbus (American, 1923-1971)

Child with a toy hand grenade in Central Park, N.Y.C., 1962

Gelatin silver print

Private Collection; L2025:54.4

Diane Arbus is one of the most influential American photographers of the 20th century. She was interested in depicting people outside the New York social establishment, often photographing on the street, in the park, or in her subjects' houses and workplaces. **Child with a toy hand grenade in Central Park, N.Y.C.** is one of her iconic works. A young boy (named Colin Wood) looks directly at the camera, making a face he said was "imitating a face I'd seen in war movies" and holding a toy hand grenade. The photograph teeters between childhood play and violence, with a cool commentary on the social and political upheaval of the 1960s.

On view August 20 – November 30, 2025

