**Edward Steichen**

(1879, Luxembourg - 1973, United States)

Three years after his birth, his family emigrated in the United States. At the age of fifteen Steichen began a four-year lithography apprenticeship with the American Fine Art Company of Milwaukee and, in the leisure time, he attended the conventions at Arts Students League. His passion was the painting, a technique he continued to develop for more than twenty years. In the 1895 he started to take photos. In 1899 some of his photos were exhibited at the Second Philadelphia Salon and they gained the public admiration. Alfred Stieglitz bought three of his works. Edward Steichen and Alfred Stieglitz became close friends and co-workers. Steichen persuaded Stieglitz to open the famous art gallery “291” in New York and suggested him to host exhibitions of Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Auguste Rodin and many others European artists and photographers. Steichen gained knowledge of these famed artists in Paris, where he moved in 1900 to study art.

During the First World War, Steichen became responsible for the photographic division of the American Expeditionary Forces. When he came back in his country, he worked as a commercial photographer for the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency and, in 1923, he was appointed head of the department of photography of Condé Nast Publications, publishing in Vogue and Vanity Fair. In 1947 he was appointed manager for the department of photograph at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, position born specifically for him.

In 1955 he edited the famous exhibitions *The Family of Man*.