

Concours d'entrée en 1^{re} année – Session 2016

Language Test (recto-verso)

Name: _____

My English Level (please underline the level you consider corresponds to yours):

Basic Intermediate Upper Intermediate Advanced

Other languages spoken: _____

Part One: replace the following prepositions in the text (some will be used more than once): as / at / by / for / in / of / to / with

Saul Leiter started shooting color and black-and-white street photography (1) _____ New York in the 1940s. He had no formal training in photography, but the genius of his early work was quickly acknowledged (2) _____ Edward Steichen, who included Leiter in two important MoMA shows in the 1950s. MoMA's 1957 conference "Experimental Photography in Color" featured 20 color photographs by Leiter.

After that, however, Leiter's personal color photography was, for the most part, not shared with the public. He became better-known (3) _____ a successful fashion photographer in the 1950s and 60s. All the while, Leiter continued to stroll the streets wherever he was (mostly New York and Paris), making photographs for his own pleasure. He printed some of his black-and-white street photos, but kept most of his color slides tucked away in boxes. It was only in the 1990s that he began to look back at that remarkable color work and start to make prints. His sense of color and densely compressed urban life represents a truly unique vision of those times.

The first European retrospective of Saul Leiter's street photography is taking place right now (4) _____ the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris. The exhibition includes one floor of black-and-white images, and another floor of all color. The color work is especially thrilling to see because not much of it had been seen before — and it is all wonderful and quirky and surprisingly fresh. A book just published by Steidl coincides with this retrospective, and includes more than 100 black-and-white and color photographs.

Leiter came (5) _____ Paris for the opening of his show. He is humble and unassuming and intensely curious about things around him. In an interview for the new book, he said:

"I started out (6) _____ a fashion photographer. One cannot say that I was successful but there was enough work to keep me busy. I collaborated (7) _____ *Harper's Bazaar* and other magazines. I had work and I made a

living. At the same time, I took my own photographs.

“I spent a great deal of my life being ignored. I was always very happy that way. Being ignored is a great privilege. That is how I think I learnt to see what others do not see and to react to situations differently. I simply looked at the world, not really prepared (8) _____ anything.”

At the press conference in Paris, Leiter confided that he often purchased inexpensive color film that was past its expiration date: he loved to be surprised (9) _____ the odd shifts in color that would result. He also told funny stories about Robert Frank and his friend Diane Arbus. Leiter also recounted how he turned down Steichen's invitation to participate (10) _____ the now-famous Family of Man exhibition: "It seemed to me that that exhibition was less about photography, and more about things that I wasn't sure of."

Art critic Roberta Smith wrote in 2005: “Mr. Leiter was a photographer less of people than of perception itself. His painter's instincts served him well in his emphasis on surface, spatial ambiguity and a lush, carefully calibrated palette. But the abstract allure of his work doesn't rely on soft focus, a persistent, often irritating photographic ploy, or the stark isolation of details, in the manner of Aaron Siskind or early Harry Callahan. Instead, Mr. Leiter captured the passing illusions of everyday life with a precision that might almost seem scientific, if it weren't so poetically resonant and visually layered.”

Part Two: Circle the word closest in meaning to the underlined words:

1. Stroll – photograph, trawl, run, amble
2. Tucked away – consume, forgotten, hidden, stored
3. Thrilling – exhilarating, surprising, disappointing, unexpected
4. Quirky – offbeat, bizarre, beautiful, brilliant
5. Shift – movement, stillness, metamorphosis, change
6. Recounted – counted, related, shouted, heard
7. Turned down – accepted, excepted, refused, turned up
8. Lush – luxuriant, green, hush, various
9. Ploy – trick, manoeuvre, plot, toy
10. Stark – severe, hark, quiet, striking