

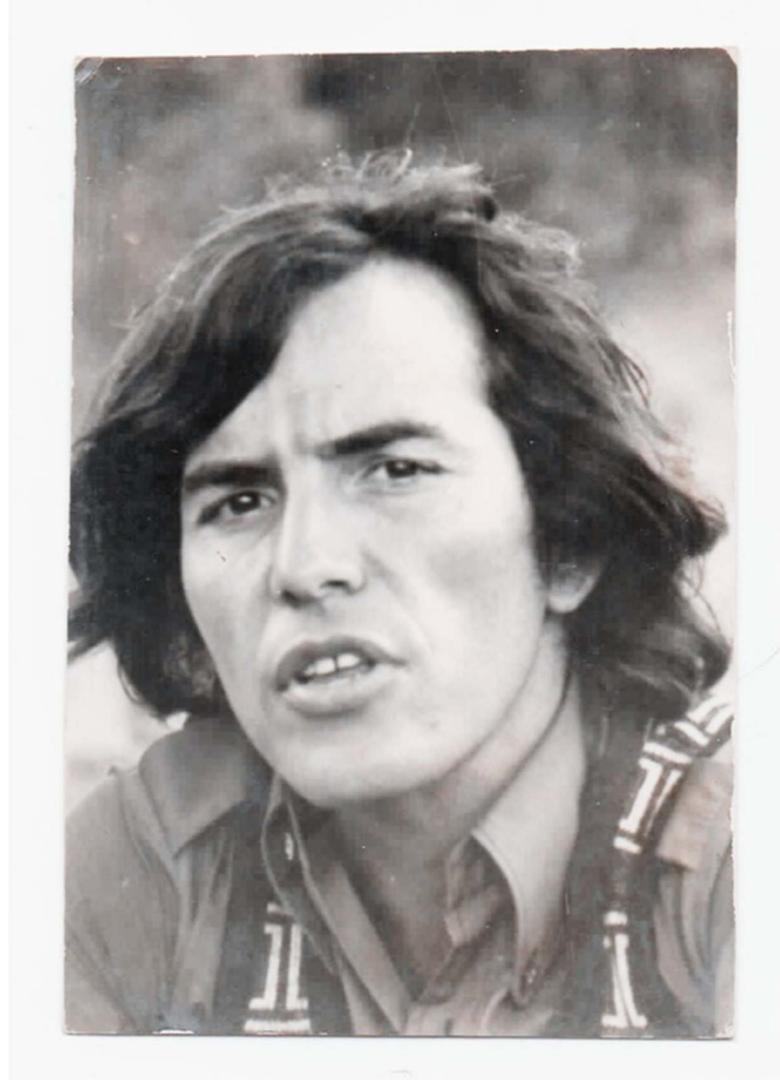
GILBERT BERTRAND

VN75 ANOTHER GAZE



GILBERT BERTRAND

Gilbert BERTRAND was born on 2 June 1938 in Saint-Vallier, in the Drôme region of France. Growing up in a modest family shaped by the hardships of both World Wars - his father a veteran of the Second World War and his mother a homemaker - he developed early on a deep yearning for distant horizons and other cultures.



After completing his secondary education in 1957, Bertrand started a career as a teacher. From 1959 to 1962, he did his military service in Algeria and later joined a civil service mission as a primary school teacher in Tamanrasset, Algeria, until 1970. There, he discovered a passion for teaching and was profoundly moved by the lives of Algerian children and their families. This experience awakened in him a lifelong curiosity for other cultures and a desire to share the French language across the world.

In 1970, following his mission in Algeria, he applied for an overseas posting in Vietnam and was sent by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to teach at a primary school in Danang, in central Vietnam. During this time, he trained as a specialist in teaching French as a foreign language and became a trainer of French teachers from abroad.

In 1972, he was appointed Pedagogical Coordinator of the French Institute in Dalat, then in Saigon, where he served until the reunification of Vietnam in 1975. From 1975 to 1980, Bertrand was posted as Deputy Cultural Attaché in Wellington, New Zealand, where he launched a nationwide program for French language instruction in schools and trained local French teachers. He continued this work in New Orleans, USA, from 1980 to 1984.

From 1984 to 1986, he served at the French Ministry of Education in Paris. He was then appointed Secretary General of the French Cultural Service in Beijing, China (1986–1989), followed by similar diplomatic and cultural roles at the French Embassies in Washington, D.C., and Jakarta, Indonesia, until his retirement.

A passionate photographer, Bertrand documented his travels and encounters throughout his career. His portraits of tribal communities in Algeria and Vietnam stand out for their sensitivity and authenticity. His series of street photographs taken in Saigon between 1974 and 1975, particularly during the entry of North Vietnamese troops, is of historical significance, offering a rare and poignant visual record of a defining moment in the country's history.

VN75 ANOTHER GAZE

VN75 is a powerful collection of black and white analog photographs by Gilbert Bertrand, featuring over 900 photographs taken between 1970 and 1975.

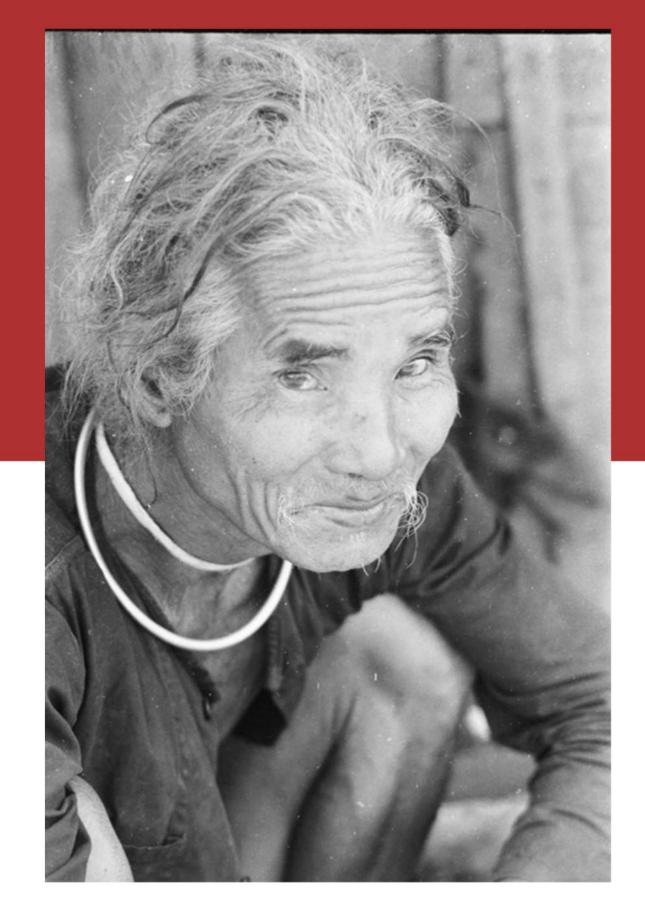
The collection is divided into three distinct themes:

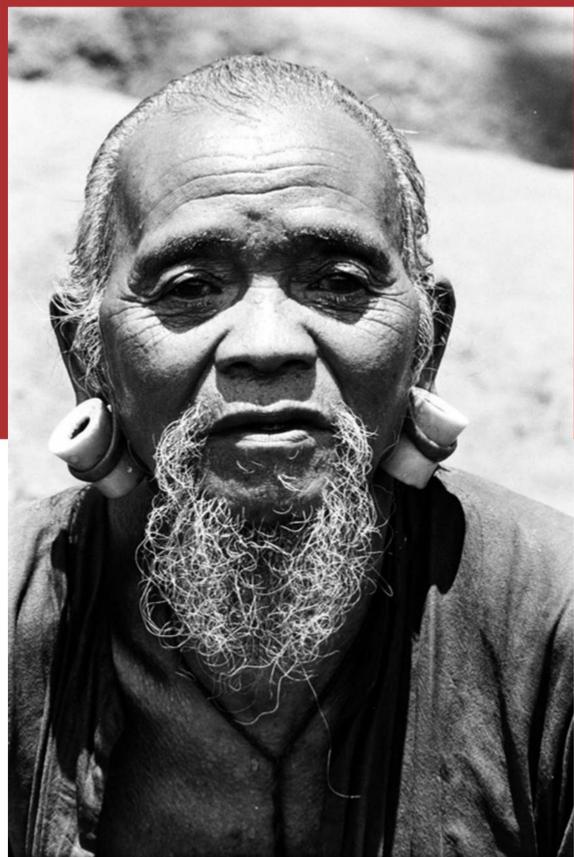
- Portraits of tribal people from the Annam Mountains in Vietnam.
- Candid street scenes from Saigon in the early 1970s.
- Dramatic moments capturing the North Vietnamese army's entry into Saigon in 1975.

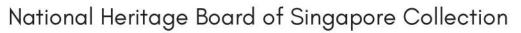
A selection of photos from this collection, which has never before been exhibited, will be exhibited in Hanoi, Vietnam, in November 2025, as part of the Hanoi Photo Biennale organised by the French Institute to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Vietnam. This collection offers a deeply personal perspective from the photographer. It is not only significant for its aesthetic and technical mastery but also for its historical value. Capturing a pivotal moment in time, Bertrand's unique viewpoint distinguishes his work from other photographic representations of the Saigon parade, making this collection a singular historical document. The following selection of images highlights the depth and distinctiveness of this extraordinary body of work.

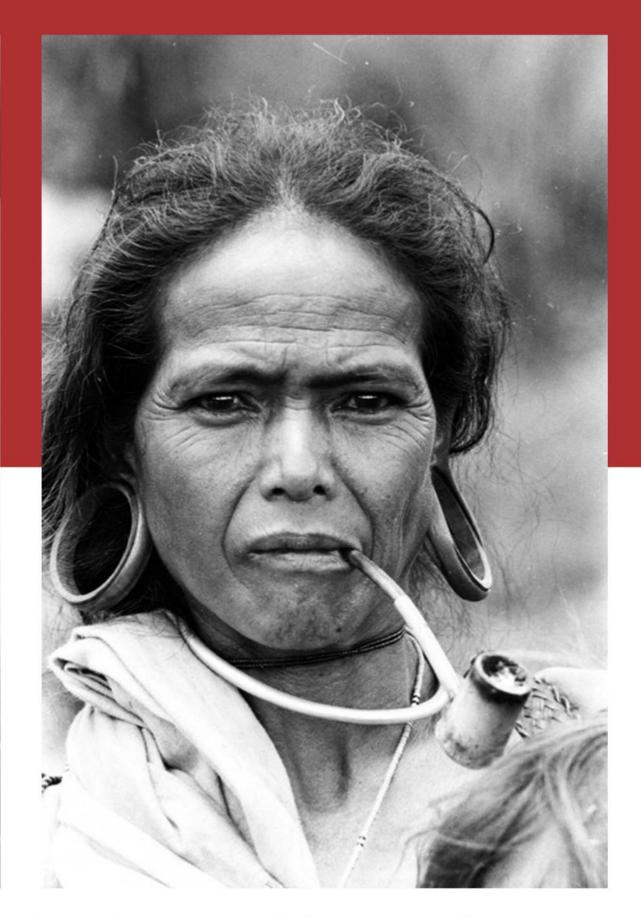
Limited edition prints (1/5) are available in both portrait and landscape formats, each measuring 45 × 30 cm and priced at USD 680.

THE TRIBAL PEOPLE

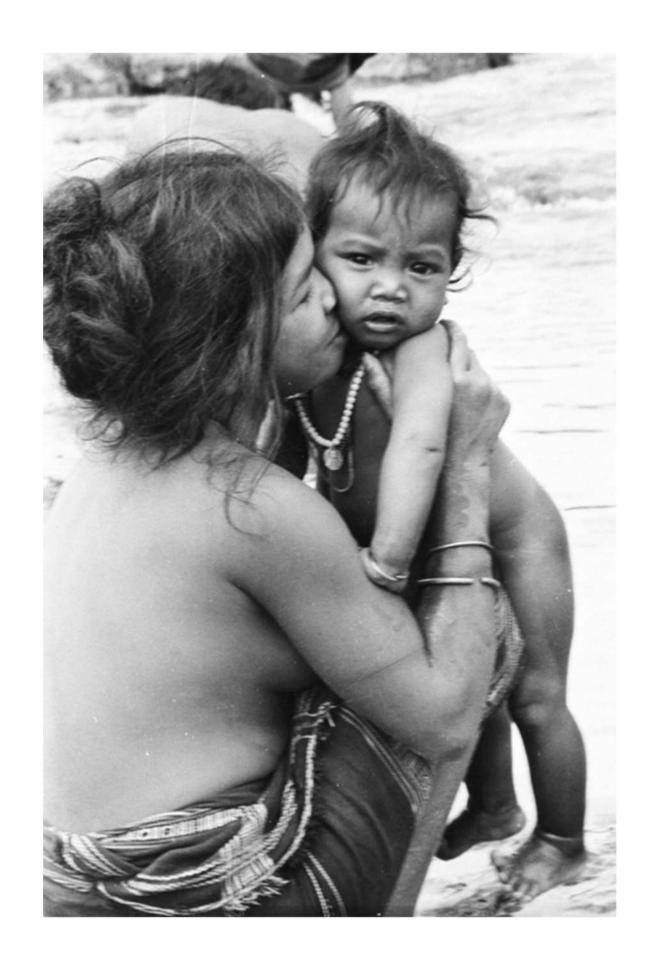




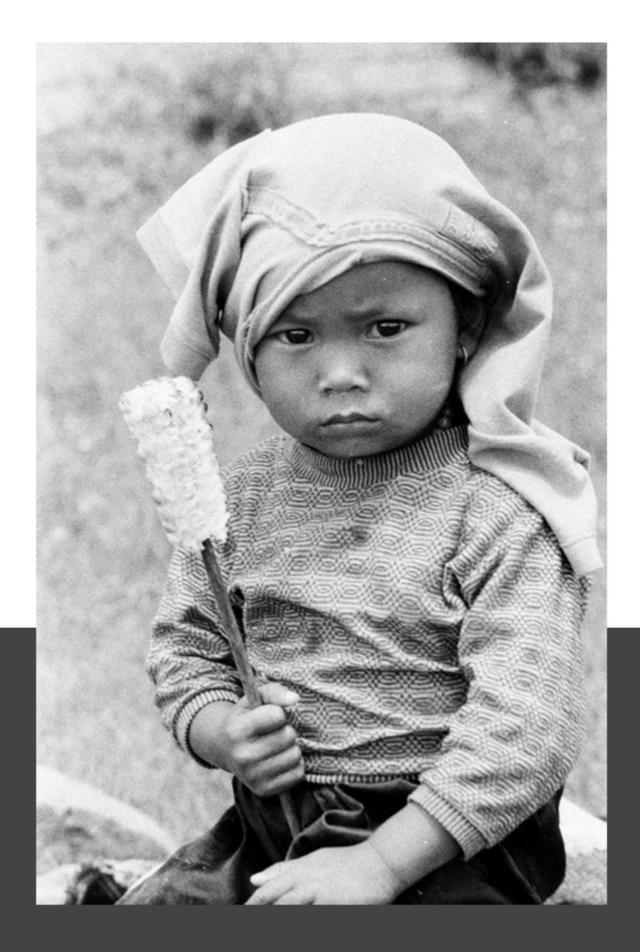


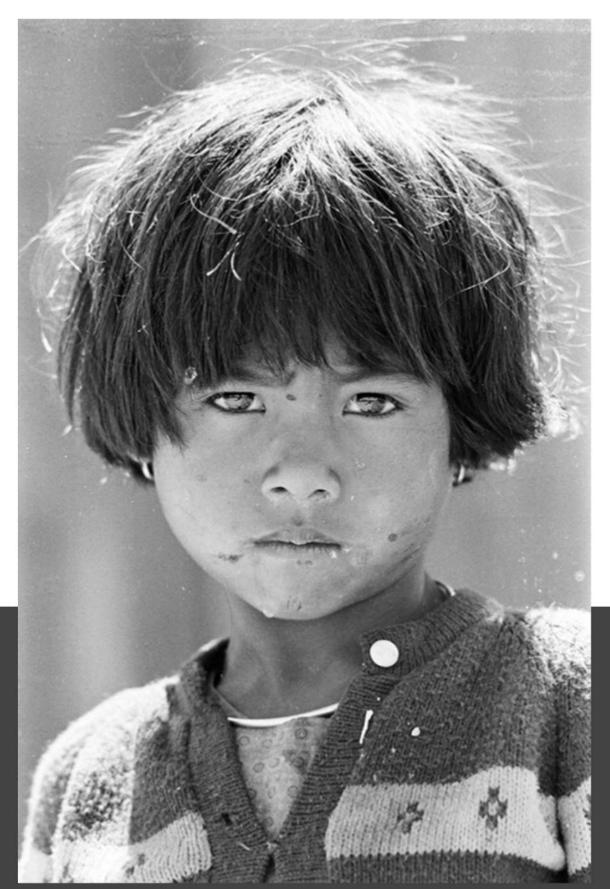


National Heritage Board of Singapore Collection



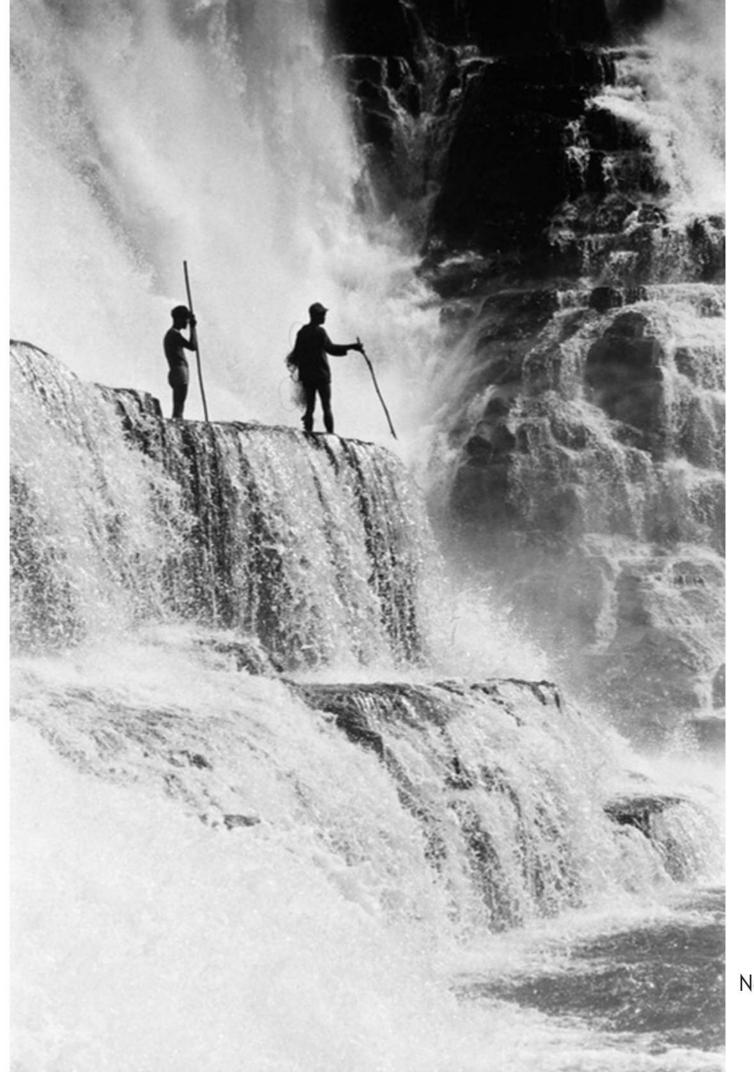








National Heritage Board of Singapore Collection

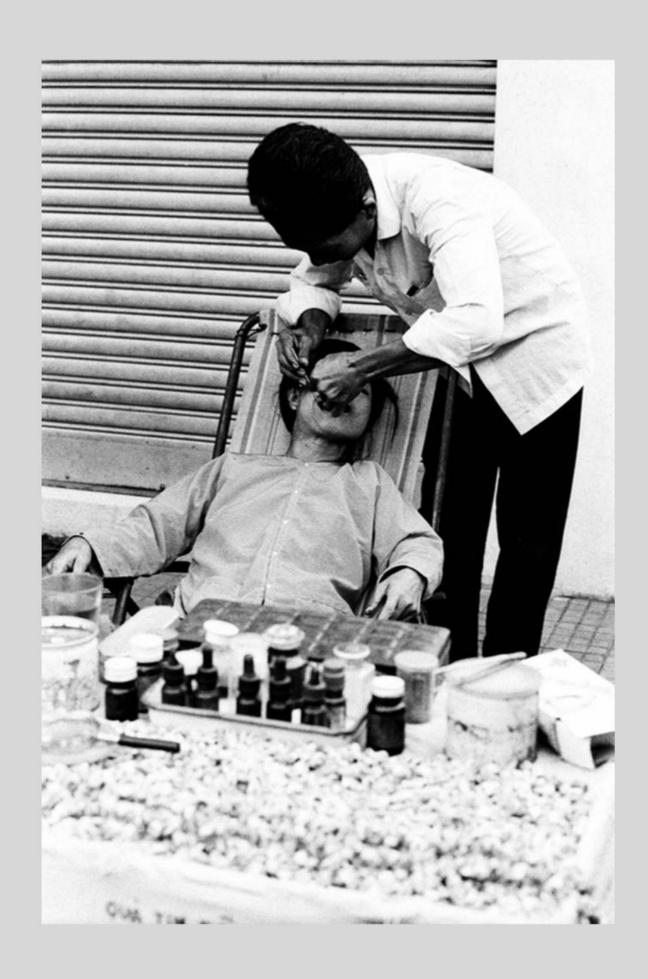


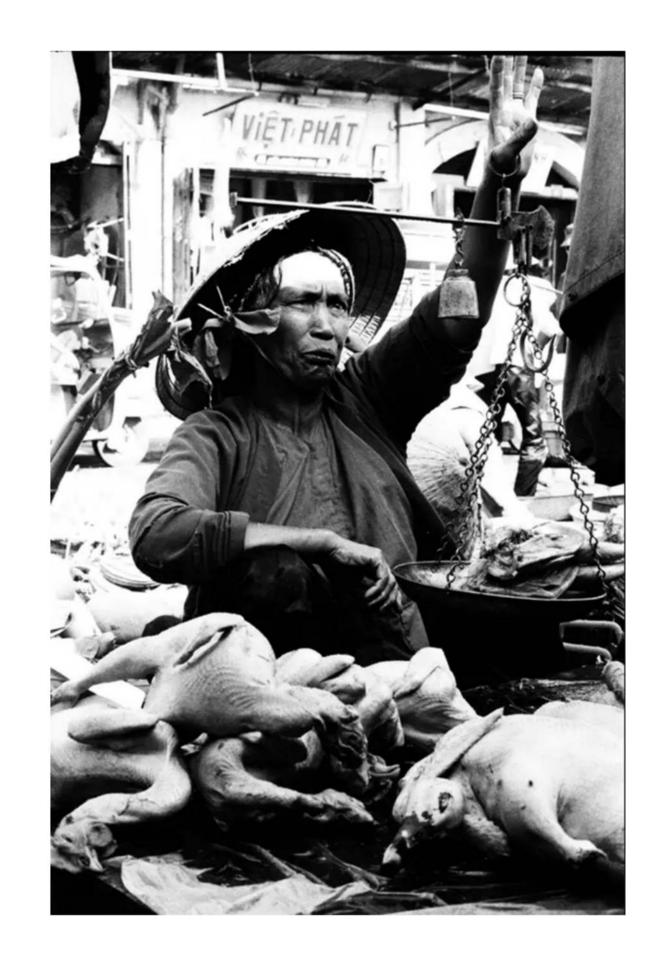
National Heritage Board of Singapore Collection



National Heritage Board of Singapore Collection

S A I G O N S T R E E T S























THE SAIGON PARADE

























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