He is famous for publishing the first ever modern fashion photographs, working for Vogue and Vanity Fair and really commercialised photography.

He was the most well known and highest paid photographer in the world and was the first person to work with colour (Portrait of Miss Sawyer). His favourite photo is The Thinker.

He also photographed with the Photography Division of the American Army during WWI using straight photography. His war documentary *The Fighting Lady* won the 1945 Academy Award for Best Documentary.

After World War II, Steichen was Director of the Department of Photography at New York’s Museum of Modern Art until 1962. While at MoMA, he curated and assembled the exhibit *The Family of Man*, which was seen by nine million people. It consisted of over 500 photos that depicted life and death in 68 countries from 273 photographers. The exhibition toured the world for eight years, making stops in thirty-seven countries on six continents. The photographs included in the exhibition focused on the commonalities that bind people and cultures around the world and the exhibition served as an expression of humanism in the decade following World War II. The collection’s overtones of peace and human brotherhood symbolized a lifting of the overhanging danger of an atomic war for Soviet citizens. It can now be seen in Luxembourg.