



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Embassy in Greece



HELLENIC
AMERICAN
UNION

H.E. the Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Mr. Paul Schmit
&
The President of the Hellenic American Union, Dr. Leonidas Tzonis

Invite you to a cultural event on

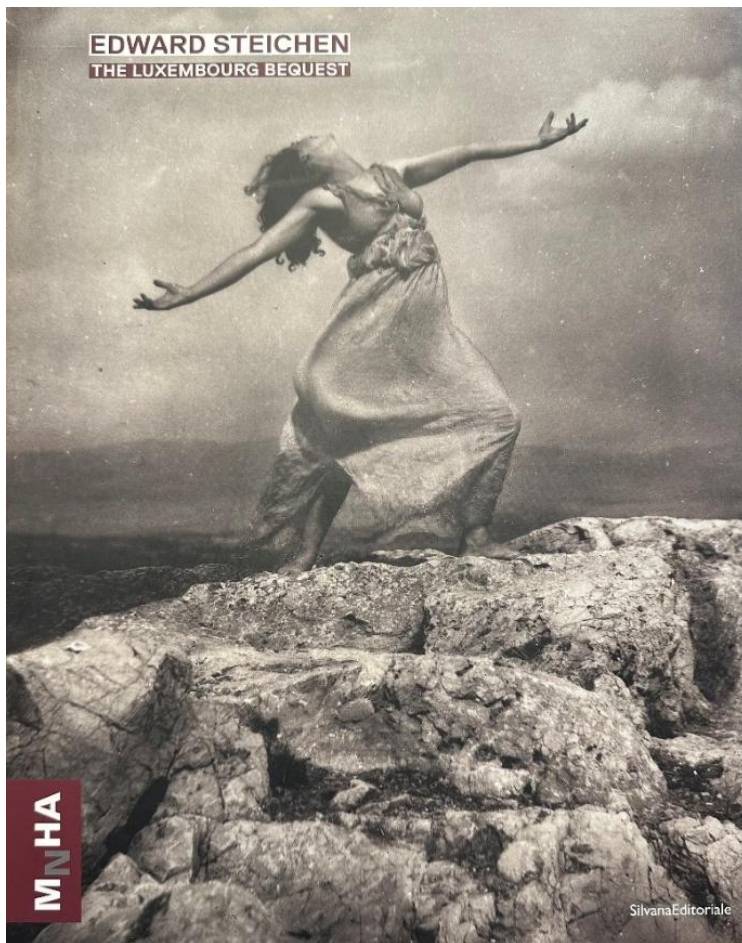
Edward Steichen

A Multifaceted Artist of the 20th Century
Photographer, Painter, Curator, Designer, and Horticulturist

by Paul Lesch,

Commissioner for the Edward Steichen Collections at the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg,
and former director of the Centre National de l'Audiovisuel (CNA)

on 16 June 2026 at 18h30 at the Hellenic American Union



The work titled “The Acropolis” / “Thérèse Duncan on the Acropolis” (1920) is a gelatin silver or palladium print created by Edward Steichen during his stay in Athens in the summer of 1920.

It depicts Thérèse Duncan, an American dancer and adopted daughter of Isadora Duncan, posing dramatically among the rocky heights and classical ruins of the Acropolis.

Steichen was on holiday in Venice in 1920 at the same time as the dancer Isadora Duncan who was on her way to Greece with her dance troupe. With the promise that Steichen would be able to make pictures of her dancing on the Acropolis, Isadora persuaded him to accompany her. While she managed to pose for a few photographs at the Parthenon, it was with her pupil and adopted daughter Thérèse that Steichen produced this startling and remarkable image: *She was a living reincarnation of a Greek nymph. Once, while photographing the Parthenon, I lost sight of her, but I could hear her. When I asked where she was, she raised her arms in answer. I swung the camera around and photographed her arms against the background of the Erechtheum. And then we went out to a part of the Acropolis behind the Parthenon, and she posed on a rock, against the sky with her Greek garments. The wind pressed the garments tight to her body, and the ends were left flapping and fluttering. They actually crackled. This gave the effect of fire -- 'Wind Fire' (Steichen, A Life in Photography, np).*

© 2026 The Estate of Edward Steichen / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Venue: Hellenic American Union, Massalias 22, 10680 Athens

The lecture is illustrated with numerous photographs and film clips

You are kindly invited to confirm your attendance no later than **1 June 2026** at the following address: ambassadeur.athenes@mae.etat.lu

Dress code: Smart casual