

Artist as Muse

Taking their creative counterparts as inspiration, the photographers featured here turn artists into subjects. The images encapsulate both the photographer's signature style and the subject's public persona. Richard Avedon's dramatic visual sensibility is emphasized in his powerfully gritty portrait of film director John Ford. Yousuf Karsh's chiaroscuro portrait of the famed modern composer Jean Sibelius renders a deeply furrowed brow, denoting an embodiment of music akin to the markings on a score. Lewis Morley snapped the brash Young British Artist Sarah Lucas at the height of her emergence, and her seated position atop a toilet, back facing the viewer, seems an apropos representation of her personal and professional style. In contrast, Reed Massengill's colorful portrait of David Zurek emphasizes the dancer's beautifully lean and languid body, which he used to great effect as a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Some portraits are elements from a larger series, as seen in Kurt Fishback's image of documentary photographer Mary Ellen Mark. Rena Small has been making hand portraits of artists since the 1970s, including those of architectural photographer Julius Shulman and artist Alexis Smith. Other photographers extend the notion of portraiture into places of work. Ira Nowinski composed the Paris studio of Man Ray into visual fragments, and Eve Arnold captured Orson Wells in a moment of rest on set with a cigar in his mouth. Lynn Hershman finds her own visage to be the ripest subject of investigation, with its vast potential for reconstruction detailed in surgical markings. Finally, Dora Maar, who was a recognized photographer when she became Pablo Picasso's muse, turns the camera toward her longtime friend Jacqueline Lamba, herself an artist and the former wife of Surrealist author André Breton. These images underscore the interwoven relationship between muse and maker, and how one informs the other in rich and varied ways.

The works on view are gifts of Joe and Pamela Bonino, Michael Childers, Dan and Jeanne Fauci, Kurt E. Fishback, Irwin Gershow, David Knaus, Mark Edward Rice, Rena Small, and Robert Julian Stone.

Eve Arnold, American, 1912 - 2012

Orson Welles, n.d.

gelatin silver print

Gift of Michael Childers

2014.63

Richard Avedon, American, 1923-2004

John Ford, director, Bel Air, California, 1972

gelatin silver print, edition 3/50

Gift of Michael Childers

32-2011

Kurt E. Fishback, American, born 1942

Mary Ellen Mark, 1982 (from the series "Artists Portraits, New York")

gelatin silver print

Gift of Kurt E. Fishback

2-1996.1

Lynn Hershman, American, born 1941

Reconstruction, 2005 (from the series "Roberta")

digital print

Gift of Joe and Pamela Bonino

73-2013

Yousuf Karsh, Canadian-Armenian, born Turkey, 1908-2002

Jean Sibelius, 1949

gelatin silver print

Gift of Irwin Gershow

2016.765

Dora Maar, French, born Croatia, 1907 - 1997

Jacqueline Lamba devant un globe enferment un bouquet [Jacqueline Lamba in front of a bouquet enclosed in glass], 1930-1940; printed ca. 1980

black and white matte photograph

Gift of Robert Julian Stone

2014.175.1

Reed Massengill, American, born 1961

Davy Zurak in Vivicolor, Lon's Apartment, ca. 2000

chromogenic cross-processed print, edition 1/15

Gift of Mark Edward Rice

86-2009

Lewis Morley, British, born Hong Kong, 1925-2013

Sarah Lucas, 1980-1989

gelatin silver print

Gift of David Knaus

70-2011

Ira Nowinski, American, born 1942

Objects: Studio Man Ray, Rue Ferou, Paris, 1983

gelatin silver print, A.P.

Gift of Dan and Jeanne Fauci

85-2008

Ira Nowinski, American, born 1942

Objects: Studio Man Ray, 2 Rue Ferou, Paris, 1983

gelatin silver print, A.P.

Gift of Dan and Jeanne Fauci

86-2008

Rena Small, American, born 1954

Julius Shulman, 1999 (from the lifework "Artists' Hands Grid Continuum")

gelatin silver print, edition 3/10

Gift of the artist

49-2013.1

Rena Small, American, born 1954

Alexis Smith, 1986 (from the lifework "Artists' Hands Grid Continuum")

gelatin silver print, A.P.

Gift of the artist

49-2013.2