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Harn Museum of Art Brings Exhibition of E. O. Hoppe's Portrait Photography to Gainesville this Summer

GAINESVILLE, Fla, May 27, 2015— The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida is bringing the first major exhibition in more than thirty years devoted to photographer E. O. Hoppé to Gainesville June 23 through Aug. 30, 2015. *Hoppé Portraits: Society, Studio and Street* includes 142 photographs dated between 1909 and 1945. The exhibition was organized by the National Portrait Gallery, London, in collaboration with Curatorial Assistance and the E.O. Hoppé Estate Collection and is circulated by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

Hoppé Portraits: Society, Studio and Street brings together for the first time E. O. Hoppé's modernist portraits alongside his documentary studies capturing the realities of day-to-day life in Britain between the wars. E. O. Hoppé (1878-1972) was one of the most important photographers of the first half of the twentieth century and much of his work has only recently been reassembled.

The exhibition has travelled to the National Portrait Gallery, London; Fundación Mapfre, Madrid, Spain; Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, Australia; and Cooley Memorial Art Gallery, Portland, Oregon. "Over a decade ago, E. O. Hoppé's work languished in obscurity. Yet, in his day, he was one of the most influential and highly regarded photographers in the world," said Kerry Oliver-Smith, Harn Curator of Contemporary Art and organizing curator of the exhibition at the Harn. "We are pleased to bring this exhibition to the southeastern United States and Gainesville."

E. O. Hoppé migrated to London as a young man and, once there, rapidly established himself as the leading practitioner of photographic portraits in England. His most prolific period was between 1917 and 1937. He began by photographing a wide range of eminent politicians, performers, writers and socialites including figures such as Ezra Pound, Rudyard Kipling, and the royals of England. He was best known for photographing dancers from Diaghilev's Ballets Russes such as Vaslav Nijinsky and Tamara Karsavina. He believed in establishing a certain magnetic communication between himself and his sitter. Rather than seeking to mimic the sitter's physical appearance, he sought to capture his or her character, disposition and inner essence.

Later, Hoppé became a close friend with the socially-conscious playwright, George Bernard Shaw. The friendship reinforced his interest in the working class and a new influx of ethnically and racially diverse immigrants. In the streets of London in the late 1930s and 40s, Hoppé photographed unique types and interesting characters, finding beauty in faces that revealed hard work and engagement in life. In Hoppé's words, "beauty knows no class distinction." According to him, beauty resided in the intellectual and inner qualities of each subject.

The exhibition is curated by Phillip Prodger, Head of Photographs, National Portrait Gallery, London and made possible locally by Ted and Hallie McFetridge, Bob and Joelen Merkel, with additional support from the Harn Program Endowment and the Sidney Knight Endowment.

Admission to the museum is free. For more information, call 352-392-9826 or visit www.harn.ufl.edu.

Images are available upon request.

Programs

Performance

Saturday, June 27, 3 p.m.

“London Calling: Poetry and Popular Music in the Modernist City”

UF Professor of English Marsha Bryant, singers Tony Canty and Caitlin Pearse, and musicians Nick Pierce and Thomas Royal will recreate poems, jazz songs and music hall numbers from the time of photographer E. O. Hoppé’s London.

Artist Talk

Sunday, June 28, 3 p.m.

“Portrait B Cause”

Local photographer Randy Batista will discuss portraits that were created to support charitable causes and community services.

Museum Night

Thursday, July 9, 6 – 9 p.m.

“Across the Pond”

Visitors will travel across the pond – and back in time – by participating in activities and viewing performances relating to this exhibition of works photographed in early 20th century London.

Curator Talk

Sunday, July 12, 3 p.m.

“Face to Face”

E.O. Hoppé claimed a magnetic connection with his sitters. Participants may see and discuss his amazing portraits of London’s celebrities, workers and street life with Kerry Oliver-Smith, Harn Curator of Contemporary Art.

Photography Competition

Submission Deadline: June 15

The general public is encouraged to get inspired by portrait photographer E. O. Hoppé and submit their photographs for display at the Harn Museum of Art. More information and submission requirements can be found at www.harn.ufl.edu/get-involved.

Family Day

Saturday, July 25, 1 - 4 p.m.

“Picture Yourself in London”

Families with children of all ages will meet the people of early 20th century London during a tour of the



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exhibition. Inspired by the era, families will have the opportunity to dress up in style, view a dance performance and create self-portraits with a message to future viewers.

Gallery Talk

Sunday, August 30, 3 p.m.

“Choreographing Man and Modernity: The Moving Masculinities of Vaslav Nijinsky and Ted Shawn”
Joan Frosch, UF Professor, School of Theatre and Dance and Director, Center for World Arts will discuss Russian choreographer and dancer Vaslav Nijinsky and American modern dancer Ted Shawn. Both troubled the gender legacy of nineteenth and early 20th century dance to represent a significant male presence onstage. The portraits of E. O. Hoppé illuminate the power, magnetism and vulnerability of these modernist pioneers and historicize the continuing conversations about dance and the construction of gender.

Docent-led Tours

Every Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.

Visitors may take a docent-led tour of the exhibition. No reservations necessary. Groups of 10 people or more may schedule a tour of the exhibition by contacting 352.392.9826 x2112 or tours@harn.ufl.edu. Scheduled group tours are free but a \$2 - \$3 donation per person is suggested to support the work of the museum.

About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university’s system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 10,000 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida’s Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit www.harn.ufl.edu.

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