

Portraits by Karsh



From left to right: *Martin Luther King, Jr.*, 1962, 2009.9.8; *Georgia O'Keeffe*, 1956, 1996.5.8; *Winston Churchill*, 1941, 1996.5.2; All works by Yousuf Karsh (American, born Armenia 1908–2002), gelatin silver print on paper, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Gifted to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts by Mrs. Yousuf Karsh in honor of Museum Director, Mark M. Johnson

Yousuf Karsh (1908–2002) made an international “Who’s Who” list of 100 Most Notable People of the Twentieth Century. He was in close company. The Canadian photographer had trained his large-format camera on 51 of the 100. By the time of his retirement in 1992, more than 15,000 people had been the subject of his portraits. Not all of his sitters were famous, but Karsh made his reputation by making memorable pictures of public figures. Kennedy and Castro, Picasso and Warhol, Sondheim and Stravinski, Steichen and Steinbeck, and more.

This exhibition includes portraits of doctors, lawyers, statesmen, philanthropists, artists, writers, musicians, movie stars, and more. Most of the photographs are from the artist’s personal collection, kept over the years as standards of excellence for judging subsequent prints made from his vintage negatives.

Contents

100 framed and glazed black & white and color photos, plus *Portraits of Greatness* (1959) and several other books Karsh published between 1946 and 1992. Label copy and text for didactic panels will be provided on CD. High resolution images for promotional purposes and sample press releases also will be provided.

Publication

The MMFA will produce a brochure featuring an introduction by Karsh’s widow, Estrellita, and an essay by Karsh’s curator and archivist Jerry Fielder.

Requirements

The exhibition requires approximately 700 linear feet of installation space. It must be installed in galleries devoted solely to the exhibition of art; no natural or fluorescent light is allowed. Works must be displayed at or under 10 footcandles. Institutions must provide a current AAM Facilities Report. Appropriate 24-hour climate control, security and fire suppression systems must be maintained.

Terms and Availability

The exhibition is available through 2018. The rental fee of \$12,000 for 10 weeks (on view) includes framed works, text for panels, and labels on CD. A certificate of insurance is required; shipping is not included but may be prorated depending upon scheduling of venues. Please contact Sarah Graves, Collections Information Specialist, at sgraves@mmfa.org for details.