

***Facing Artists: Twentieth Century Portraits from the Collection,***

February 27, 2009–July 31, 2009

The portraits in this exhibition depict figures in the literary, performing, and visual arts. Created by a broad range of twentieth-century artists, the presentation complements the Yousuf Karsh photographs on view in the adjacent gallery. This assembly, grouped to reveal both thematic and formal relationships, reveals how twentieth-century artists, including Karsh, have embraced timeless conventions of portraiture while also expanding its parameters.

Artists began painting likenesses of individual faces—versus generic types—as early as the second century CE. (Three early examples are on view in the Museum’s Egyptian gallery.) But it was during the European Renaissance that the portrait became a vital part of visual culture. Early Netherlandish portraits, such as the *Portrait of a Cleric* (ca. 1490) in the Museum’s Renaissance gallery, depict the sitter’s head, shoulders, and hands against a simple backdrop. Such strikingly naturalistic, intimate portraits were paired with devotional scenes or portrayed their sitters at prayer. As individuals became increasingly invested in status within a more visible public sphere, artists created larger portraits—often depicting the subject seated, standing, or at three-quarter length—that included attributes meant to define the sitter’s standing or character. *Lady of the Hampden Family* (ca. 1610) in the Main Gallery, for example, depicts an elegantly clad young noblewoman standing before a garden, a symbol of her virtue. The newly wealthy professional class also sought visibility through portraiture. Pompeo Batoni’s *Portrait of Thomas Estcourt, Esquire* (1772) in the Museum’s Stairwell gallery shows a seated gentleman surrounded by symbols of his learning (books, a portrait bust) and leisure (a hunting dog).

Printed, drawn, and, later, photographed portraits soon became as prevalent as painted representations and were available to a wider audience. Beginning in the late Renaissance period, engravers made series of portraits of notable personages that were widely circulated and collected. Included in these series were pictures of artists, which played an important role in the creation of the artistic canon. The invention of photography in 1839 made the portrait a wholly democratic art, contributing to the appetite for celebrity portraiture that grows to this day.

Perhaps what distinguishes twentieth-century portraiture is the diversity found within the genre: the style and aim of each portrait is as individual as the artist who made it. Rarely a mere physical description, each offers a view into the personality, mood, reputation, or work of both subject and artist. (Sometimes the two are one and the same, as many of the images seen here are self-portraits.) The revelation of complex relationships between the sitter and the artist—two creative individuals working in collaboration—may offer the ultimate fascination of this selection.

# RISD MUSEUM

## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Andy Warhol, American, 1928-1987

*Mick Jagger*, 1975

Color screenprint

Gift of David N. North in Memory of John Randall Orth 1988.052



Roy DeCarava, American, 1919-2009

*Billie at Braddocks (Billie Holiday)*, New York, 1952, 1952

photogravure

Mary B. Jackson Fund 1990.019.8



# RISD MUSEUM

Josef Breitenbach, American, 1896-1984

*Josef Albers Teaching His Color Class at Black Mountain College II*, 1944

Gelatin silver print

Gift of Peter C. Jones, Rhode Island School of Design RISD BFA 1974,  
in honor of Frank Robinson 1992.083.2



David Hockney, British, b. 1937

*Peter Resting with Clothes on, St. Tropez*, 1969

Pen and ink on paper

Gift of Richard Brown Baker 1996.11.20



Robert Mapplethorpe, American, 1946-1989

*Self-Portrait*, 1980

Gelatin silver print

Museum purchase: gift in celebration of Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr.'s  
75th Birthday from his friends 1996.97



Richard Merkin, American, 1938-2009, (RISD MFA 1963, Painting;  
RISD Faculty 1963-2009, Painting)

*1965: Italo and Me*, 1965

Pastel, oil stick and metallic pigment on paper

Gift of the Artist 2002.17



# RISD MUSEUM

Hans Richter, American, 1888-1976

*Marcel Duchamp in Southbury as "Venus Stepping Out of a Mussel",*  
ca. 1955-1958

Gelatin silver print

Museum Acquisition Fund 2003.13



Nan Goldin, American, b. 1953

*Vivienne at home, NYC, 1980*

Color chromogenic print

Walter H. Kimball Fund 2003.8



Barbara Morgan, American, 1900-1992

*Doris Humphrey with my Red Fires, 1938*

Gelatin silver print

Georgianna Sayles Aldrich Fund 2004.91



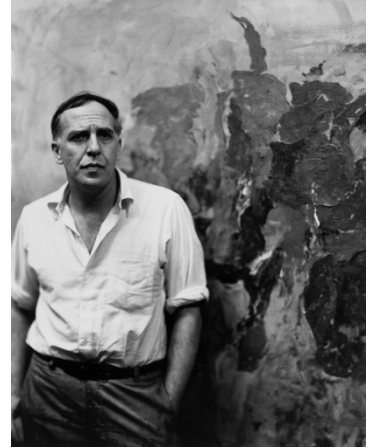
# RISD MUSEUM

Arthur Swoger, American, 1912-2000

*Philip Guston*, 1957

Gelatin silver print

Gift of Rachel Swoger 2005.101.6



Robert Gober, American, b. 1954

Derriere L'Etoile Studios

*Bride*, 1992-1996

Photolithograph printed on archival newsprint

Walter H. Kimball Fund 2005.74



Alfonso Ossorio, American, b. Philippines, 1916-1990

*Ida Lupino*, 1946

Ink, wax and watercolor

Gift of the Alfonso Ossorio Foundation 2007.115.3





# RISD MUSEUM

Ernest C. Withers, American, 1922-2007

Panopticon Gallery

*Isaac Hayes in his Stax Office, The Memphis Blues Again, 1970s*

Portfolio of ten gelatin silver prints

Helen M. Danforth Acquisition Fund 2007.48.3.10

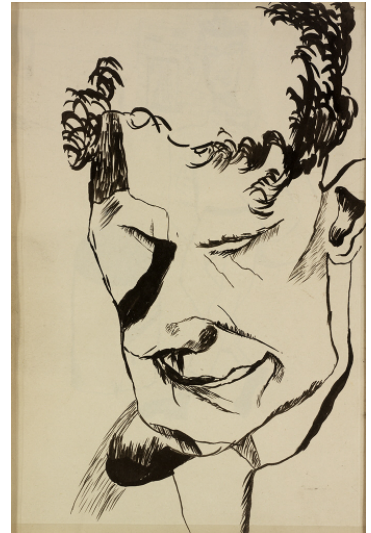


Lucian Freud, English, 1922-2011

*Stephen Spender, 1940*

Pen and ink

Richard Brown Baker Fund for Contemporary British Art 2007.65



Peter Hujar, American, 1934-1987

*Ethyl Eichelberger as Auntie Belle Emme, 1979*

Gelatin silver print

Helen M. Danforth Acquisition Fund 2009.14

# RISD MUSEUM

Robert Rauschenberg, American, 1925-2008  
*Homage to Frederick Kiesler*, 1967  
Color offset lithograph  
Bequest of Richard Brown Baker 2009.92.190



Lucas Samaras, American, b. 1936  
*PhotoFlicks and PhotoFictions*, 2005  
Installation comprising of 4, 432 iPhoto and 60 iMovie files on Mac  
Mini, presented with computer components, desk and chairs  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. William G. Tsiaras 2011.79

Hermann Struck, German, 1876-1944  
*Portrait of Oscar Wilde*, ca. 1912  
Soft-ground etching on green paper  
Gift of Martin Birnbaum 24.084



# RISD MUSEUM

Amedeo Modigliani, Italian, 1884-1920

*Portrait of Leopold Zborowski*, 1917

Graphite on paper

Gift of Miss Edith Wetmore 32.241



Max Beckmann, German, 1884-1950

*Self-Portrait with Bowler Hat*, 1921

Drypoint on paper

Gift of Murray S. Danforth, Jr. 51.511

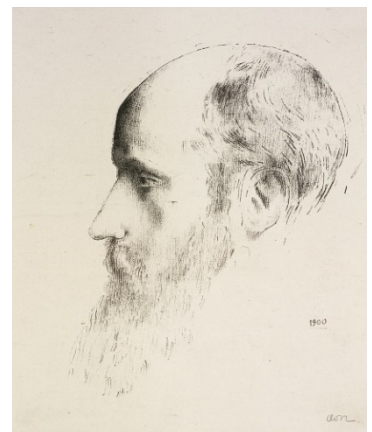


Odilon Redon, French, 1840-1916

*Portrait of Edouard Vuillard*, 1900

Lithograph

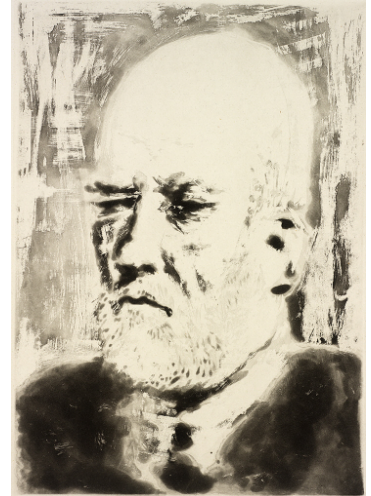
Museum Works of Art Fund 52.077





# RISD MUSEUM

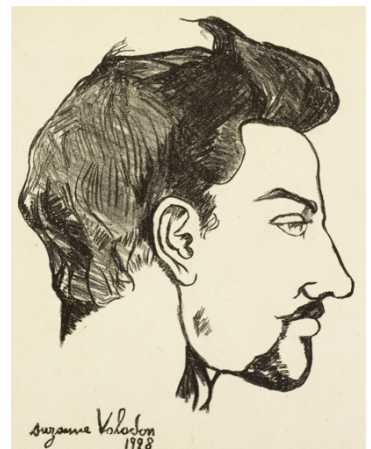
Pablo Picasso, Spanish, 1881-1973  
*Portrait of Vollard II, Vollard Suite*, 1937  
Aquatint and etching on heavy weight cream laid paper  
Gift of Mrs. Murray S. Danforth 52.213



Diego Rivera, Mexican, 1886-1957  
*Self-portrait (Autorretrato)*, 1930  
Color lithograph  
Museum Works of Art Fund 52.315



Suzanne Valadon, French, 1865-1938  
*Portrait of Maurice Utrillo*, 1928  
Color lithograph  
Museum Works of Art Fund 58.027



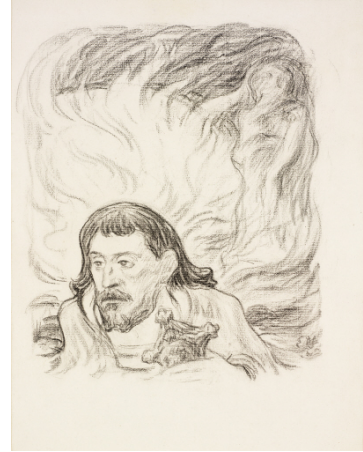
# RISD MUSEUM

Emile Schuffenecker, French, 1852-1934

*Portrait of Paul Gauguin (sketch for Les Hommes d'aujourd'hui), ca. 1896*

black crayon on laid paper mounted to cardboard

Museum Works of Art Fund 59.076



Käthe Kollwitz, German, 1867-1945

*Study for Unemployed; verso: Self-Portrait and Standing Woman, ca. 1910*

Gouache and ink on grey paper; verso: graphite on grey paper

Mary B. Jackson Fund 62.113



Milton Avery, American, 1893-1965

*Portrait of Mark Rothko with Pipe, 1936*

Drypoint

Gift of the estate of Milton Avery 67.108

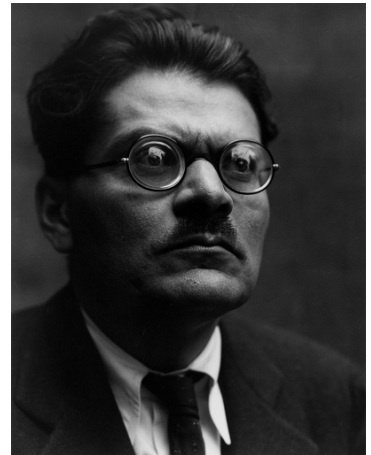


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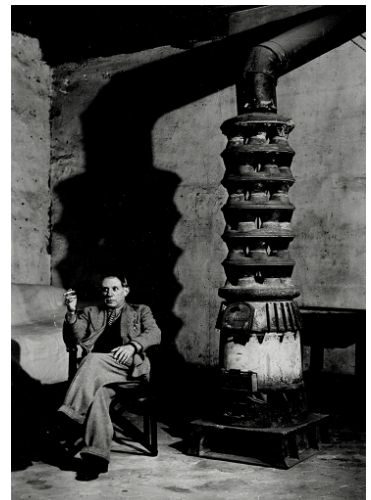
Edward Steichen, American, 1879-1973  
*Portrait of Matisse with "La Serpentine"*, 1909  
Carbon print  
Gift of the Bayard and Harriet K. Ewing Collection 71.003



Edward Weston, American, 1886-1958  
Cole Weston, 1919-2003  
*Portrait of José Clemente Orozco*, 1930  
Gelatin silver print  
Museum Works of Art Fund 71.117.1



Brassaï, French, 1899-1984  
*Picasso au poêle, rue des Grands Augustins (Picasso by the Stove, rue des Grands Augustins)*, 1939  
Gelatin silver print  
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bloom Photography Fund 72.010



# RISD MUSEUM

Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton, British, 1904-1980

*Marlene Dietrich*, 1930's

gelatin silver print

Walter H. Kimball Fund 74.046



Richard Hamilton, British, 1922-2011

E. Schreiber, German, 19th century

Petersburg Press, Inc.

Dietz Offizin

*A Portrait of the Artist by Francis Bacon*, 1970-71

Color collotype (from a Polaroid of Richard Hamilton by Francis Bacon) and screenprint

Georgianna Sayles Aldrich Fund 74.108



Richard Avedon, American, 1923-2004

*William Burroughs, Writer, New York City*, 1975

Gelatin silver print

Museum purchase with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts 75.096

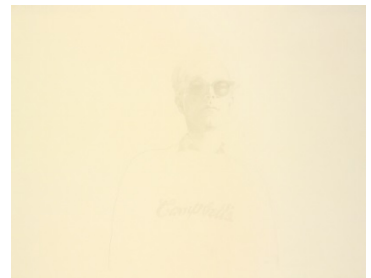


Theodore Wujcik, American, b. 1936

*Andy Warhol*, 1975

Silverpoint on cream clay-coated Morilla paper

Museum purchase with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts 76.051





# RISD MUSEUM

Arnold Newman, American, 1918 - 2006

*Max Ernst*, 1942

Gelatin silver print

Museum purchase with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts 76.052



James Abbe, American, 1883-1973

*photograph*, 1919

Gelatin silver print

Mary B. Jackson Fund 76.060

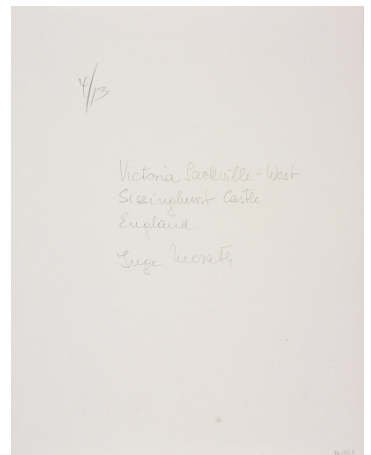


Inge Morath, American, 1923-2002

*Victoria Sackville-West, Sissinghurst Castle, Kent*, 1961

Gelatin silver print

Gift of Inge Morath Miller 76.173.7





# RISD MUSEUM

Jim Dine, American, b. 1935

Deli Sacilotto

Mitchell Friedman

Jeremy Dine

Pace Editions, Inc., American

*Spray Painted Robe*, 1977

Offset lithograph, etching and soft-ground etching, drypoint, and electric tools with hand-coloring in spray enamel on buff Arches Cover paper

Georgianna Sayles Aldrich Fund 77.126



Chuck Close, American, b. 1940

Patrick Foy

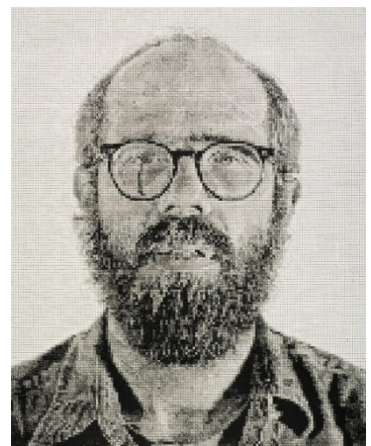
Crown Point Press

Pace Editions, Inc., American

*Self-portrait*, 1977

Etching

Mary B. Jackson Fund 78.050



Horst P. Horst, American, 1906-1999

*Gertrude Lawrence*, 1936

Gelatin silver print

Museum purchase with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts 78.092



# RISD MUSEUM

Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Mexican, 1902-2002

*Portrait of Juan Rulfo*, ca. late 1940s

Gelatin silver print

Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art 79.031



André Kertész, American, 1894-1985

*Portrait of Jean*, ca. 1930

Gelatin silver print

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jaffe 81.101

