

Gibbes Museum of Art

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one of the foremost collections of American Art from the 18th century to the present, the museum's mission is to enhance lives through art by engaging people of every background and experience with art and artists of enduring quality and by providing

opportunities to learn, to discover, to enjoy and to be inspired by the creative process.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.gibbesmuseum.org).

Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, Offers Photographs From Robert Marks Collection

The Gibbes Museum of Art, in Charleston, SC, home to one of the foremost collections of American art, will celebrate the art and storytelling power of film and photography with the launch of an all-new, in-person film series, "Gibbes Film in Focus", and a virtual lecture series, "Depth of Field: Perspectives on 20th Century Photography". Launching in February 2021, both programs will coincide with the Gibbes' exhibition, *In Body and Soul: The Figure in Modernist Photography*, on display in the Museum's Gallery 9, through Apr. 18, 2021.

"We are thrilled to share the illustrious mediums of film and photography with our community," says Angela Mack, executive director of the Gibbes Museum of Art. "The Gibbes always strives to inspire and engage our audiences in new ways as well as provide opportunities to learn, discover and experience new art and artists."



"Hands of Georgia O'Keeffe, no. 26", 1919, by Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864-1946). Gelatin silver print, Gift of Robert W. Marks; 1974.012.0130

Drawn from the Robert Marks Collection, this exhibition features thirty photographs by renowned 20th century photographers. From Alfred Stieglitz's intimate composite portraits of Georgia O'Keeffe to Lewis Hines's depictions of American laborers, modernist-era photographers radically shifted how the human body was captured on film and for what purpose. Employing a variety of techniques from cropping and zooming, to distortion and framing, photographers explored the human figure for social, performative, voyeuristic, and documentary purposes. Highlights include the work of Stieglitz, Hine, Berenice Abbott, Margaret Bourke-White, George Platt Lynes and László Moholy-Nagy.

The exhibition is made possible by a substantial collection of photographs given to the Gibbes in 1974 by Charleston native, Robert Marks (1907-1993). The Robert Marks Collection, 160 photographs strong, is the backbone of the Gibbes photography collection.

Perhaps nearly as intriguing as the collection of photographs, is the collector himself—born and raised in Charleston, Marks was considered exceptionally bright but unmanageable by his instructors at Porter-Gaud Military Academy. Conforming to traditional academic settings remained a problem for him at Yale where he enrolled as a freshman but dropped out before his sophomore year. A year later he was asked to leave the College of Charleston as well. Though he rarely attended classes, he regularly contributed to the campus and local newspapers.

Recognizing writing was his passion,



"Icarus", 1931, by Lewis W. Hine (American, 1874-1940). Gelatin silver print; Gift of Robert W. Marks; 1974.012.0037

Marks moved to New York in his twenties where he established a prolific career as a freelance writer for the nation's top newspapers and magazines including *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, and *The Saturday Evening Post* among many others. His journalistic pursuits gained him insider access to the latest cultural events in the world of art, music, and theater. He mingled among the most select artistic circles of mid-century New York. He traveled extensively and interviewed celebrities including many Hollywood starlets such as Sophia Loren and Audrey Hepburn.

Throughout his career Marks' interests and writings ranged widely from the arts to mathematics to philosophy. In 1958 he published his first novel *The Horizontal Hour* that was featured very briefly on The New York Times Best Seller list. He followed this with *The Story of Hypnotism* and several books with his good friend, the renowned designer and futurist inventor Buckminster Fuller. Despite his long and prolific career in the publishing industry, Marks made his most memorable and financially successful splash as an author late in life with a series of erotic romance novels set in Charleston and published under a pen name John Colleton. So successful was the series of novels, Marks returned to Charleston in 1973 and remained here for the rest of his life.



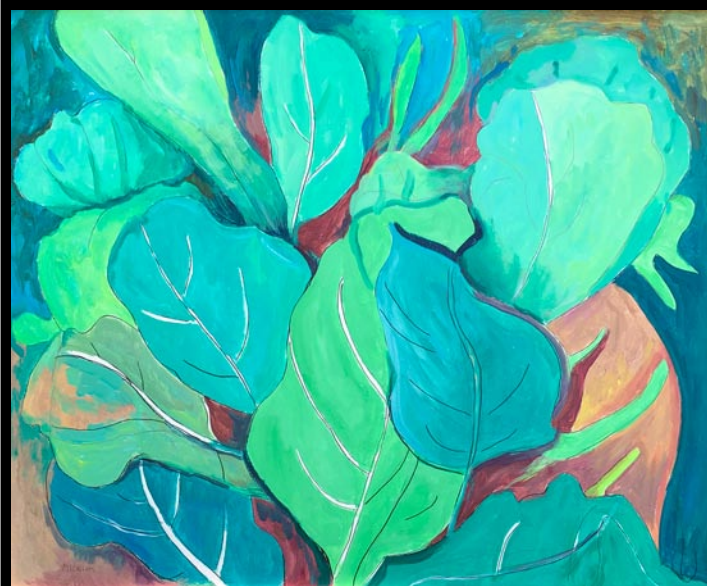
"Jimmie Daniels, Singer Currently at Le Ruban Bleu", 1933, by George Platt Lynes (American, 1907-1955). Gelatin silver print. Gift of Mr. Robert W. Marks 1974.012.0102

Many related programs will be offered in conjunction with this exhibition, contact the Gibbes Museum of Art for further details at (www.gibbesmuseum.org).

Home to the Carolina Art Association, established in 1858, the Gibbes Museum of Art is recognized among the oldest arts organizations in the United States. Housing one of the foremost collections of American Art from the 18th century to the present.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.gibbesmuseum.org).

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