

# phantasmagoria

SPECTERS OF ABSENCE FALL 2008

## USC LIBRARIES RESEARCH GUIDE

The human desire to understand and manipulate the unknown manifests itself visually in *Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence*. Through the use of otherworldly shadows, fog, mirrors and projections, artists in the exhibition shock their audiences while provoking a frightened and awestruck reaction. At the same time, they demonstrate control over the experience they create for spectators. Shadow and illusion are two examples of devices that deceive audiences and guide their responses to phantasmagoric artworks.

Katherine Goar of the USC Fisher Museum of Art and Judy Truelson of the USC Libraries have selected the following resources to help you explore the influence of shadow and illusion on the art world. These include materials on the history and contemporary practice of art.

### Art and Shadow

#### *Shadows: The Depiction of Cast Shadows in Western Art*

By E. H. Gombrich

National Gallery Publications, 1996

Gombrich discusses how 17th-century artists and romantic, impressionist and surrealist artists exploited the device of the cast shadow.

**AFA Library N8243.S36G66 1995**

#### *The Great Art of Light and Shadow: Archaeology of the Cinema*

By Laurent Mannoni

University of Exeter Press, 2000

Mannoni describes what is now known as the "pre-cinema" period, showing a fascinating range of optical media from the 12th century to the turn of the 20th century.

**Cinema Library TR848.M27413 2000x**

#### *Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence*

By José Roca

Independent Curators International, 2007

This richly illustrated catalog features the phantasmagoric artworks in this exhibition.

**AFA Library N8243.S36R63 2007**

#### *Play with Light and Shadow; the Art and Techniques of Shadow Theater*

By Herta Schönewolf; translated by Alba Lorman

Reinhold, 1968

Schönewolf presents a summary and historical analysis of shadow puppetry.

**DML Library PN1979.S5S35 1968**

### Art and Illusion

#### *Art and Illusion:*

#### *A Study in the Psychology of Pictorial Representation*

By E. H. Gombrich

Princeton University Press, 2000

Gombrich puts forth his own controversial theory of perception, thereby bringing the topic of the visual back to the center of the history of the visual arts.

**AFA Library N70.G615 2000**

#### *Eyes, Lies and Illusions: The Art of Deception*

By Laurent Mannoni

Hayward Gallery, 2004

This wonderful collection of images and artifacts explores the art and science of perception, tracing the historical paths that led to contemporary photographic and cinematic image-making through the toys and optical illusions in the exhibition.

**AFA Library N7430.5.M36 2004**

#### *Masters of Deception:*

#### *Escher, Dali & the Artists of Optical Illusion*

By Al Seckel

Sterling Pub. Co., 2004

This volume offers a dazzling array of artistic creations that cleverly manipulate the perspectives and perceptions of viewers.

**AFA Library N7430.5.S414 2004**

#### *Phantasmagoria: Spirit Visions, Metaphors, and Media*

By Marina Warner

Oxford University Press, 2006

Warner discusses ten vehicles or types of imagery through which people have tried to depict the illusory. She labels them wax, air, clouds, light, shadow, mirror, ghost, ether, ectoplasm and film.

**DML Library BH301.I52W37 2006**