My father started me on photography when I was eight. Years later as a student in Tokyo in 1970, I saw an exhibition by Karsh of Ottawa. The portraits were about three by four feet in size! Larger than life. With no glass plates covering them, there was no annoying reflective glare from lights. The detail and clarity of the rich, deep blacks, whites and gray tones were amazing -- they jumped out at you. The perfect moments captured in those photographs held me enthralled. Fresh from months at Europe's finest museums poring over paintings by great masters, I stood before those huge Karsh portraits, mesmerized. Rightly or wrongly, I likened Karsh to the Chiaroscuro masters. Years later, I became a newspaper, wedding, and sometime portrait photographer -- never in the same league as Karsh.

Visions & Voices events:

- **Yousuf Karsh: Festival of Film and Music.**
  Thursday, September 30, 2010
  With pianist Victoria Kirsch, mezzo-soprano Cynthia Jansen, and bass-baritone Cedric Berry, to celebrate the lives of Karsh's portrait subjects. A reception will follow.

- **The Afterglow: A Tribute to Robert Frost**
  Thursday, October 7, 2010
  The documentary combines stunning visuals and literary criticism, breathing new life into Karsh's portrait of Frost. Following the screening, USC English professor Mark Irwin will present a discussion and poetry reading. A reception will follow.

- **Karsh is History: Yousuf Karsh and Portrait Photography**
  Thursday, November 4, 2010
  Documentary screening, accompanied by a discussion with USC photography professor Robbert Flick, with a reception to follow.

- **Turning Paintings Into Poems: How Poets Look at Art**
  Thursday, October 28, 2010
  A talk and reading by poet and arts writer Tom Healy. He will explore the history of the relationship between poetry and the arts, and how poets are responding to contemporary art today. Introduced by California Poet Laureate, USC Professor Carol Muske-Dukes.
Karsh

Yousuf Karsh, one of the great portrait photographers. This LibGuide was created to accompany the Visions & Voices events at the USC Fisher Museum of Art: Yousuf Karsh: Festival of Film and Music.

Related USC Websites

- Architecture & Fine Arts Library
- Fisher Museum of Art

Online Catalog (Homer)

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Karsh at the USC Libraries

Here are a few of our Karsh books. Click on a title to see the Homer record.

**Portrait in light and shadow: the life of Yousuf Karsh**

- Tippett, Maria

  Call Number: AFA Library TR140.K3T576 2007

  ISBN: 0300136501

  This is the first biography written with help from his family and colleagues, and based on the Karsh archive in Ottawa. The book includes sixty of his most celebrated portraits, and reveals the technique behind the camera.

**Karsh: a biography in images**

- Karsh, Yousuf; with commentary by Jerry Fielder

  Call Number: AFA Library TR681.F3K37415 2003

  ISBN: 0878466711


**Karsh: a sixty-year retrospective**

- Karsh, Yousuf

  Call Number: AFA Library TR681.F3K37415 1996

  ISBN: 0821223348

  A revised, updated edition of Karsh: a fifty-year retrospective (1983). The first book to include a large group of people not in the public eye, workers in their environments, and his early works and experiments. The first book to represent his work in color, with surprising masterworks.

**Karsh: American legends: photographs and commentary**

- Danziger, James

  Call Number: AFA Library TR681.F3K3742 1992

  ISBN: 0821219065

  no cover photo available

**Interviews with master photographers: Minor White, Imogen Cunningham, Cornell Capa, Elliott Erwitt, Yousuf Karsh, Arnold Newman, Lord Snowdon, Brett Weston**

- Danziger, James

  Call Number: AFA Library TR139.D36 (1977)

  ISBN: 0448221837

  no cover photo available

Comments (0)
Databases & Articles - Karsh - LibGuides at University of Southern California

Karsh

Yousuf Karsh, one of the great portrait photographers. This LibGuide was created to accompany the Visions & Voices events at the USC Fisher Museum of Art: Yousuf Karsh: Festival of Film and Music.

Last Updated: Aug 19, 2011

URL: http://libguides.usc.edu/karsh

Databases

two AFA specific databases, and four multi-disciplinary databases

- ArtBibliographies Modern
  - an index that covers publications on contemporary art and photography, and the history of art from the mid-19th century to present.
- ArtStor
  - almost a million high quality images of art and photography.
  - ArtStor has 75 Karsh portraits.
- Academic OneFile
- Biography Resource Center
- ProQuest Research Library
- Wilson OmniFile

Comments (0)

Sample Articles

These articles are examples of what you can find in the library's online resources.

- Encyclopedia of World Biography
  - Four-page article on Karsh
- Approaching the Legends of Yousuf Karsh
  - an article from Queen's Quarterly

Comments (0)

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* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide

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Karsh

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Related Websites

- http://karsh.org
  the official website

- ArtCyclopedia
  -- listings of museums, galleries, reference sites, and other miscellaneous sites.

- CBC photo gallery (with biographical notes)
  -- excellent biography, photographs and notes.
  -- use the "open in full screen" for best effect.

- Library and Archives Canada (BAC)
  -- a short biography, excellent photographs, excellent bibliography

- National Gallery of Canada
  -- a short biography; excellent photographs

Comments (0)
Karsh

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CBC National News clip

Interview with Estrellita Karsh and Elizabeth Grant (Karsh's longtime assistant).

MFA Boston video

Museum of Fine Arts in Boston produced this interview with Mrs. Karsh.