

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.

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Introduction

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.***

- Yousuf Karsh: Hero of a thousand Faces through Words 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.

An additional event at Fisher Museum:

- 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.

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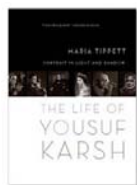
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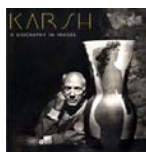


[Portrait in light and shadow : the life of Yousuf Karsh - Tippett, Maria](#)

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

A revised and redesigned edition of Karsh: a Sixty-year Retrospective (1996)



[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 - Karsh, Yousuf](#)

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](#)

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ISBN: 0448221837

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Copy and paste Yousuf Karsh into the Quick Search.

Nearly 1,900 items: over 20 books, over 200 journal articles, over 1600 from newspapers (Sept 2010).

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](#)

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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

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- <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

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CBC National News clip

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

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MFA Boston video

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

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