

For immediate release
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USC Fisher Museum Presents the Photography of Yousuf Karsh August 19-November 23, 2010

Los Angeles- The USC Fisher Museum of Art proudly presents Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes from August 19 to November 28, 2010. Marking the centenary of the birth of one of the twentieth century's most prolific photographers, these 100 photographs present a stunning pictorial history of some of the world's most revered luminaries.

Ernest Hemingway, Audrey Hepburn, Indira Gandhi, and Muhammed Ali are just a few of the likenesses that are forever seared into our collective consciousness.

Such photographs can be an intimate experience for a viewer says Fisher Museum Director Selma Holo. "Every time I have the opportunity to see a photograph of one of my heroes from the last century, I feel as if I have come closer to the particular contributions to our culture that they represent, be they artistic, political, scientific, or in the world of sports." According to Karsh himself, he believed that "it was the artist's responsibility... to stir the emotions of the viewer and to lay bare the soul of his subject." USC Fisher Museum Curator Ariadni Liokatis believed he excelled beyond that, creating "unique and timeless" images.

Karsh's photographic practice began as an apprentice in Turkey. Because of ethnic turmoil, he fled to Ottawa, Canada in the 1930s and built his portrait studio. Eventually almost every person of note, from Queen Elizabeth and John F. Kennedy, to Robert Oppenheimer and Bridgett Bardot, were "Karshed", a term eventually connoting having reached the pinnacle of achievement in one's field. Through Karsh, these figures were further immortalized.

"The opportunity to show these emblematic portraits... through the lens of Yousuf Karsh reminds us that there was a time when we were surrounded by greatness. Did we recognize it then?" says Holo. "This show gives us a chance to remember, re-assess, and to rejoice in the memory of each of Karsh's subjects."

This collection of portraits comes to the USC Fisher Museum of Art from the Art Institute of Chicago and its former curator of Photography, David Travis and is organized by Curatorial Assistance.

About USC Fisher Museum of Art

The USC Fisher Museum of Art, formerly Fisher Gallery – established in 1939 – is accredited by the American Association of Museums. It functions as a center of intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC's goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC's present and future audiences: to its students,

faculty, staff alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artist's talks, Yoga in the Galleries, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions.

Fisher Museum is also proud to be the home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

Museum Hours and Admission:

OPEN September through May of the USC Academic Calendar

Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5

Saturday, noon to 4, except football game days

CLOSED Sundays and Mondays

Admission to the exhibition and all related events are free.

For more information please call (213) 740-4561 or log onto our website at [://fisher.usc.edu](http://fisher.usc.edu)

Related programming:

Families with Fisher@USC

Saturday, September 18, 2010

12-2pm

Join us for a fun filled day of art and activities for the whole family! All ages are welcome!

Concerts with Fisher@USC Presents:

“Yousuf Karsh: The Hero of a Thousand Faces Through Words and Music”

Thursday, September 30, 2010

7:30-9pm, reception following.

Pianist Victoria Kirsch and fellow USC Alumni will present a concert celebrating the portrait subjects featured in the museum's current exhibition *Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes*. The repertoire will focus on themes from the lives of portrait subjects on display

Films with Fisher@USC Presents:

The Afterglow: A Tribute to Robert Frost

Thursday, October 7, 2010

6-8pm, reception following.

A screening of the documentary film, *The Afterglow: A Tribute to Robert Frost* narrated by Burgess Meredith. Followed by commentary and poetry reading by USC English Professor and Poet Mark Irwin.

Karsh is History: Yousuf Karsh and Portrait Photography

Thursday, November 4, 2010

12-1:30pm

This documentary film illuminates the life and work of one of the greatest portrait photographers of all time, Yousuf Karsh. Accompanied by commentary and a discussion by USC Photography Professor, Robbert Flick.

All events take place at USC Fisher Museum of Art, Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted.

(please note that each event will be linked to the calendar where the full description is available)