



Silver Eye Center for Photography
1015 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412.431.1810

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Bloomfield

Email: abloomfield@silvereve.org

Premier Fine Art Photography Auction at Pittsburgh's Silver Eye

(Pittsburgh, PA) Silver Eye Center for Photography will host an auction of fine art photographs on **Saturday, May 10, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m. at 1015 East Carson Street, on Pittsburgh's historic South Side. A total of 134 Lots will be included in the sale and these are on view at Silver Eye from **April 25 – May 9, 2008**. This **Silver Eye Benefit Auction** includes original prints donated by noted artists and galleries from around the world. Works of celebrated photographers — Esther Bublely, Edward S. Curtis, Charles "Teenie" Harris, Lewis Hine, Mary Ellen Mark, Laura McPhee, Duane Michals, Rosamond Purcell, W. Eugene Smith, and Ben Shahn among many others are included in this major fundraising event. Proceeds benefit Silver Eye, a non-profit gallery for everyone interested in photography. Gallery Hours: Wednesday, Noon – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, Noon – 8:00 p.m., Friday, Noon – 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

An online catalogue, which presents the images in color and black-and-white, for large-scale viewing and absentee bidding, is available at www.silvereve.org. Absentee bids are welcome and encouraged until noon, Friday, May 9, and may be placed via our website, by fax (412-431-5777) or by email to lbjones@silvereve.org.

An **Opening Reception** will take place on Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. at Silver Eye Center for Photography, 1015 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. Members and students, free; Non-members, \$5.00. Refreshments will be served.

In the early 1970s, there was an explosion of interest in the collecting of photographs. Since then, the value of photographs has continued to grow. The work of major photographers was sold in the hundreds of dollars in the 1970s, and now the same work often fetches many times more than those early auction prices. Major New York auction houses now hold annual auctions of photographs, and increasingly these are held twice each year. Vintage prints are becoming increasingly rare and with the dawn of the digital era it is unclear how much longer silver gelatin prints will be available for purchase. There has never been a better time to collect photographs.

Silver Eye's executive director, Linda Benedict-Jones notes, "Photography is the premier art form of our time. In recent years, we've seen how it has truly entered into a new phase with art collectors taking it more and more seriously. The wonderful thing about the auctions that we organize at Silver Eye in Pittsburgh is that we present historically important and increasingly rare vintage prints by image-makers such as Lewis Hine or W. Eugene Smith with the hope that through these sales we will earn critical operating funds for our non-profit art center. Just as importantly, however, is that we also offer a large number of prints by less famous, even emerging, photographers and these are more affordable and more accessible for those who want to buy a photograph for the first time or try their luck at investing in

(more)

something that might well appreciate as the years go by. We encourage everyone who enjoys photography to consider making a bid!"

The photographs on display throughout the galleries have been gathered together over the course of the past two years. They are donations from the image-makers themselves, or from their estates, galleries, or owners. Collectively they represent one of the most exciting exhibitions we do at Silver Eye because they speak to the entire history of the medium. Highlights of this year's auction include:

- A vintage photograph by the renowned artist and Farm Security Administration photographer, **Ben Shahn** (1899-1969).
- A vintage print by **Lewis Hine** (1874-1940) who was legendary in his studies of child labor.
- The portrait of Marlon Brando on our catalogue cover was made by internationally acclaimed photographer **Mary Ellen Mark** whose Smithsonian book also includes this image on the cover. The image was made during the shooting of the film *Missouri Breaks* where Brando plays a flamboyantly adept bounty hunter.
- Three vintage prints of Pittsburgh by former LIFE photo-essayist **W. Eugene Smith** (1918-1978) are included thanks to the Lee Gallery of Winchester, Massachusetts.
- Work by **highly respected and widely known Pittsburgh photographers Charlee Brodsky, Aaronel de Roy Gruber, Clyde Hare, Mark Perrott, Donald Robinson, Joseph Seamans, Dylan Vitone, and William D. Wade**, to select but a few.
- The auction also includes an exceptionally wonderful vintage print donation from Jean Bublely, the niece of American photo-journalist **Esther Bublely** (1921-1998), depicting a workman mending a fender at the Pittsburgh Greyhound Bus Station from her famed bus series of the 1950s.
- Three modern prints from the now legendary *Pittsburgh Courier* photographer, **Charles "Teenie" Harris** (1908-1998).
- Internationally recognized contemporary photographers whose work is represented with high quality prints include **Rosamond Purcell, George Tice, Nevada Wier, John Cohen, Elsa Dorfman, and Bruno Réquillart**.
- **Native Pittsburgher**, and internationally acclaimed New York photographer, **Duane Michals**, has donated one of his cherished works that recalls his fond memories of growing up in McKeesport called "From My Window" with a hand-written poem on the signed print.

(more)

- The auction includes photographs by **newcomers from Pittsburgh** such as **Hans Jonas, Mary Mervis, Elizabeth Raymer, Mark Roh, and John Warren Davis**; and from around the country such as **Barry Banner** of Houston, TX; **Carl Corey** of Hudson, WI; **Aaron Hobson** of Saranac, NY; **Saul Robbins** of New York, NY; **Camille Seaman** of Berkeley, CA; and **Mickey Smith** of Minneapolis, MN.

Members of the general public as well as *aficionados* will have plenty to discover in this year's auction exhibition at Silver Eye. By supporting the Silver Eye Benefit Auction, participants can have the pleasure of adding to existing collections, or begin a collection, while simultaneously contributing important revenue to a growing small-arts organization in Pittsburgh. The income raised in this Benefit Auction will go to support the exhibitions and programs of the organization.

Savvy collectors appreciate that collecting photographs represents one of the least expensive ways of collecting original artworks today. Now all who appreciate photography in Pittsburgh will have the opportunity to acquire prints from a wide range of photographic genres, including landscape, documentary, and portraiture in pristine silver gelatin black-and-white prints, various types of luminous color prints, and cutting edge inkjet digital technologies.

The majority of the Lots in the Silver Eye Benefit Auction are expected to range from \$200 - \$1,500. Vintage prints by historically acclaimed photographers are being offered in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Admission to the Auction at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, is \$35. Advance reservations are strongly recommended as space is limited. To reserve a space, contact Education Coordinator Sylvia Ehler at 412-431-1810, ext. 11 or sehler@silvereye.org. The doors open at 9:30 a.m. but the works can be previewed from April 25 – May 9, 2008, during normal opening hours or by appointment. The auctioneer will be Sam Berkovitz (Lic. #AU-003292-L), owner and curator of Concept Art Gallery. Complimentary refreshments will be provided from Starbucks and The Enrico Biscotti Company. A post-auction lunch voucher for Mantini's Woodfired is included in the cost of admission.

An online catalogue of all Lots is available at www.silvereye.org. Printed catalogues are available by making a \$5.00 donation to cover handling and shipping. Please call Amanda Bloomfield at 412-431-1810, ext. 12, to order a catalogue or a CD with images.

Public programming in conjunction with this auction includes two gallery talks with experts from the field of photography:

- Katherine Ware, Curator of Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art will present **The Art of Now: Buy Work by Living Photographers** on Saturday, May 3, 4:30 p.m.
- Silver Eye Executive Director, Linda Benedict-Jones will share insights on **What to Buy and Why** on Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

(more)

Generous in-kind donations have been provided by Kenneth Cuccinelli of Quest Fore, which contributed the design of all printed materials. Broadcast media sponsorship is kindly provided by DUQ/ 90.5 FM and WYEP/91.3 FM. La Fond Galleries of the South Side generously donated matting and framing of many of the auction photographs.

Silver Eye Center for Photography is generously supported by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Grable Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The A.W. Mellon Charitable Trust of the Pittsburgh Foundation, an anonymous donor, other local foundations and corporations, and our members.

The mission of Silver Eye Center for Photography is to serve the public through exposure to a wide range of work by locally, nationally and internationally recognized photographers. A Pittsburgh institution since 1985, Silver Eye Center for Photography is the oldest non-profit organization in Western Pennsylvania dedicated solely to the understanding, appreciation, education, and promotion of photography as an art form and as an expressive form of visual communication.

Silver Eye Center for Photography
1015 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-431-1810
www.silvereye.org

Gallery Hours:
Wednesday, Noon – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Noon – 8:00 p.m.
Friday, Noon – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE

###