THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER PRESENTS

SHAPING THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

THE NINTH BIENNIAL FLAIR SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2, 2010
WE ARE PLEASED to welcome you to the Ransom Center’s ninth biennial Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium. The Flair Symposium, which is generously supported by an endowment established by Fleur Cowles, honors the innovative approach to contemporary topics set forth by Cowles in her celebrated Flair magazine. The symposium was inaugurated in 1994 and has addressed a variety of subjects of cultural and literary concern, from archives and publishing to modernism and the British theater. This year’s symposium is held in conjunction with Discovering the Language of Photography: The Gernsheim Collection, the Center’s exhibition of its foundational photography collection. Over the next few days, historians, curators, collectors, and photographers will come together to discuss how our understanding of photography has been shaped historically and how it continues to evolve. These discussions undoubtedly would have been of deep interest to Helmut and Alison Gernsheim, two individuals who made tremendous contributions to the field. I look forward to our discussions and thank all of our participants for joining us here at the Ransom Center.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Staley
Director
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
All events will take place at the Ransom Center.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

5 p.m.  Registration

6 p.m.  Guided Tour of Discovering the Language of Photography: The Gernsheim Collection
David Coleman, Curator of Photography
Roy Flukinger, Senior Research Curator of Photography
Linda Briscoe Myers, Assistant Curator of Photography

7:15 p.m.  Opening Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

9 a.m.  Registration
Coffee

10 a.m.  Welcome
Thomas F. Staley, Director, Harry Ransom Center

Introduction
David Coleman, Curator of Photography, Harry Ransom Center

Keynote Address
Gernsheim’s Legacy
Colin Ford, Founding Director, National Museum of Photography, Film & Television (now National Media Museum), Bradford, West Yorkshire, England

10:45 a.m.  Photography’s Historiography
MODERATOR:
David Coleman, Curator of Photography

J. B. Colson, Professor Emeritus of Journalism and Fellow of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, Austin, TX

Alison Nordström, Curator of Photographs, George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY

Bodo von Dewitz, Senior Curator, Department of Photography, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

Marta Weiss, Curator of Photographs, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England

12:15 p.m.  Break for Lunch

2 p.m.  Collecting Photography
MODERATOR:
W. M. Hunt, Dancing Bear, New York, NY
Howard Greenberg, Owner, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, NY
Mike Marvins, Independent Collector and Professional Photographer, Houston, TX
Michael P. Mattis, Private Collector, Scarsdale, NY

3:30 p.m.  Break

4 p.m.  Photographers React
MODERATOR:
Roy Flukinger, Senior Research Curator of Photography, Harry Ransom Center
Barbara Crane, Professor Emerita, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Rita DeVitt, Artist, Tuscaloosa, AL
Bart Parker, Artist, Tuscaloosa, AL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

9 a.m.  Coffee

10 a.m.  Photographic Exhibitions
MODERATOR:
Anne Tucker, Gus and Lyndall Wortham Curator, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX
Stanley B. Burns, M.D., FACS, Executive Director, The Burns Archive and Clinical Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, New York University, Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
Marianne Fulton, Photography Curator, Writer, Appraiser, and Adjunct Faculty, School of Journalism, The University of Texas at Austin
Clint Willour, Curator, Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, TX
Noon  
**Break for Lunch**

2 p.m.  
**Photographic Publishing**  
MODERATOR:
Mary Virginia Swanson, Author and Creative Consultant, M. V. Swanson & Associates, Tucson, AZ and New York, NY

Greg Albers, Publisher, Hol Art Books, Tucson, AZ

Keith Carter, Photographer and Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX

Jace Graf, Proprietor, Cloverleaf Studio & Press, Austin, TX

4 p.m.  
**Conclusion**  
Steven Hoelscher, Chair, Department of American Studies and Academic Curator of Photography, Harry Ransom Center

4:30 p.m.  
**Closing Reception**  
Select publications will be available for purchase in the Ransom Center lobby.

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**PREVIOUS FLAIR SYMPOSIA**

- **1994** THE STATE AND FATE OF PUBLISHING


- **1998** WRITING THE LIVES OF WOMEN

- **2000** THE INFINITE LIBRARY

- **2002** WRITERS’ RIGHTS

- **2004** THE STATE AND FATE OF MODERNISM

- **2006** THE SENSE OF OUR TIME: NORMAN MAILER AND AMERICA IN CONFLICT

- **2008** CREATING A USABLE PAST: WRITERS, ARCHIVES, & INSTITUTIONS
Fleur Cowles—a writer, editor, painter, and diplomat—is best known for her landmark Flair magazine.

Despite its brief run from 1950 to 1951, Flair is still considered one of the most innovative magazines in the history of publishing. Cowles paired the works of writers, artists, critics, and photographers with marvels in design to bring together what Flair termed “the new, the controversial, the innovative, and the creative.”

Cowles first made her mark on the publishing world as Associate Editor of Look magazine in the 1940s. She remained a prolific writer and artist throughout her life. She produced 16 books, including her collections of autobiographical anecdotes Friends and Memories and All Too True. Her paintings have been exhibited on more than 50 occasions across the globe.

Fleur Cowles’s relationship with the Ransom Center began in 1992, when she visited the Center and was drawn to its aim to bring together the literary and artistic achievements of the twentieth century. That year, Cowles established the Fleur Cowles Endowment, which generously supports fellowships, internships, acquisitions, and the Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium.
Vogue House, Helmut and Alison Gernsheim surrounded by their collection, stored in the attic of their London apartment, 1961.