

Gordon Parks

American, born in 1912, died in 2006

Portrait of Helen Frankenthaler, 1957, printed 2018

Archival pigment print

Purchase: Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Fund, 2018-75

Gordon Parks was an American photographer, musician, writer, and the first African American to produce and direct major motion pictures. He portrays a young Helen Frankenthaler (born in 1928, died in 2011) surrounded by large-scale paintings she made using her novel staining technique. Both Parks and Frankenthaler were trailblazers: Parks was the first Black photographer to join the staff at *Life* magazine, while Frankenthaler was highly influential in the male-dominated Abstract Expressionist movement at mid-century. In 1957 a variant of this photograph introduced a key photo-essay in *Life*, "Women Artists in Ascendance."

Lyle Ashton Harris

American, born in 1965

Untitled (Maurice and Marvin), 1998

Dye diffusion transfer print

Purchase: Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Fund, 2021-3

Born in the Bronx and raised in New York and Tanzania, Lyle Ashton Harris explores the personal and the political through a range of artistic practices—from photography and collage to installation and performance art. Harris created the double-portrait of Maurice Berger (born in 1956, died 2020) and his partner, Marvin Heiferman (born in 1948), both noted curators and art critics.

Berger curated exhibitions for the Jewish Museum, among other institutions, and was known for his innovative scholarship on race and American visual culture, including his seminal volume, *White Lies: Race and the Myths of Whiteness* (1999). Berger passed away suddenly in March 2020, presumably from an undiagnosed case of COVID-19.

Martin Wilner

American, born in 1959

Sephirot III, Omer Calendar, 2007

Ink on paper

**Purchase: Contemporary Judaica Acquisitions Committee
Fund, 2009-22.3**

Omer is the forty-nine-day period in Jewish tradition from the beginning of the grain harvest (during the Passover holiday) to the gathering of the first fruits (at Shavuot). The time is meant for adherents to spiritually prepare for the giving of the Torah, as it was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. In Wilner's highly creative calendar, each of the seven stars contains seven images (totaling forty-nine images, one for each day of Omer) drawn from the artist's quotidian experience. At the center of each, a celebrity, person in the news, or religious figure is portrayed; in this case, the popular recording artist and superstar Madonna.

Joan Semmel

American, born in 1932

Sunlight, 1978

Oil on canvas

Purchase: Fine Arts Acquisition Fund, 2010-35

After studying at the Cooper Union, Pratt Institute, and Art Students League of New York, Joan Semmel began to make figurative work in the 1970s. The complexity of *Sunlight* hinges on the act of self-observation—the artist gazes in upon herself, resulting in a visually fragmented close-up from a disorienting angle. Giving intimate attention to her own body, Semmel inverts the western artistic tradition in which the female nude is the passive object of the male gaze. “Our connection to the flesh is, for better or worse, always with us,” the artist notes. “Our primary emotions emanate from that source and drive most other pursuits, art and politics among them. The flesh permits us to fully experience our common humanity. The canvas becomes the tender skin of fragile thoughts.”

Alex Katz

American, born in 1927

Marilyn, late 1960s

Oil on aluminum

Gift of John and Lyn Fischbach, 2022-19

Alex Katz was born to a family of Russian Jewish émigrés and grew up in Queens, New York. The artist created his first sculptural cut-out like this one in 1959. Here he pays homage to the art dealer Marilyn Fischbach (born in 1931, died in 2003), who opened a gallery on New York's Madison Avenue in 1960. Fischbach was noted for her early recognition of major figures from a variety of artistic movements, including Katz and the painter and sculptor Eva Hesse, whose work is also in the museum's collection.

Ethel Fisher

American, born in 1923, died in 2017

Portrait of Ilse Getz, 1977

Oil on canvas

Gift of Margaret Fisher, 2022-45

German-born painter and collagist Ilse Getz (born in 1917, died in 1992) fled to New York in 1937, becoming a United States citizen in 1940. In the decade that followed, Getz studied at the Art Students League of New York, making collages and constructions that incorporated found objects. The framed puppetlike figure to the left of her figure alludes to Getz's artistic creations. Fisher uses a gridlike architecture inflected by color and space, characteristic of her portrayals of artists from this period.

Hannah Wilke

American, born in 1940, died in 1993

September 18, 1990

September 27, 1990

September 28, 1990

October 1, 1990

All from the B.C. Series, 1990

Watercolor on paper

Gifts of Marsie, Emanuelle, Damon, and Andrew Scharlatt, Hannah Wilke Collection & Archive, Los Angeles, in memory of Selma and Emanuel Butter, parents of Hannah Wilke and Marsie Scharlatt, grandparents of Emanuelle, Damon, and Andrew Scharlatt, 2010-39, 2014-29, 2014-302, 2014-7

A staunch feminist in the early 1970s, Wilke frequently employed her own body for art. She began this series of self-portraits as a way to grieve the loss of her mother, who had died from breast cancer in 1982. Wilke herself was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1987. In these self-portraits she faces the horrors of the disease, referring to the symptoms and treatment (chemotherapy, baldness, emaciation) as sacrifice. The powerful vision, gestural brushstrokes, and vibrant colors evoke her continuing vitality in the face of suffering.

Alice Neel

American, born in 1900, died in 1984

Meyer Schapiro, 1983

Oil on canvas

Purchase: S. H. and Helen R. Scheuer Family Foundation Fund, 1995-111

Born in 1904 in Lithuania, Meyer Schapiro (died in 1996) grew up in the Jewish community of Brownsville, Brooklyn. He was an influential author and revered professor of art history at Columbia University, using his expertise in various disciplines to better understand works of art. He was a significant advisor and trustee of the Jewish Museum for over fifty years and encouraged the museum to show contemporary art, which he saw as indivisible from the traditional.

Alice Neel was a celebrated painter known for her expressive portrayals of luminaries and everyday people. Here she captures Schapiro's striking persona, using color and light to allude to his keen intellect.

Arnold Newman

American, born in 1918, died in 2006

TOP ROW

Marc Chagall, New York City, 1941

Raphael and Moses Soyer, New York City, 1942

Ben Shahn, Roosevelt, N.J., 1951

Chaim and Renee Gross, New York City, 1942

Louise Nevelson, New York, N.Y., 1972

Lisette Model, New York, N.Y., 1980

Gelatin silver prints

BOTTOM ROW

Larry Rivers, Southampton, N.Y., 1975

Gelatin silver-print collage

Jim Dine, New York City, 1978

George Segal, North Brunswick, New Jersey, 1985

Aaron Siskind, New York, N.Y., 1976

Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe, An American Place, New York City, 1944

Man Ray, Paris, 1960

Gelatin silver prints

Gift of Augusta and Arnold Newman, 1994-18, 1994-30, 2004-69, 1994-29, 2004-72, 2004-70, 1994-31, 1994-34, 1994-23, 2004-73, 1994-19, 1994-20

In 1946 Arnold Newman opened a photographic studio in New York, working for the major illustrated magazines of the day, including *Fortune*, *Life*, and *Newsweek*. For half a century he photographed many illustrious cultural figures of the twentieth century in a black-and-white style of emphatic, gritty elegance, which became classic in modern portrait photography.

Arnold Newman

American, born in 1918, died in 2006

TOP ROW

Marc Chagall, New York City, 1941

Raphael and Moses Soyer, New York City, 1942

Ben Shahn, Roosevelt, N.J., 1951

Chaim and Renee Gross, New York City, 1942

Louise Nevelson, New York, N.Y., 1972

Lisette Model, New York, N.Y., 1980

Gelatin silver prints

Gift of Augusta and Arnold Newman, 1994-18, 1994-30, 2004-69, 1994-29, 2004-72, 2004-70

In 1946 Arnold Newman opened a photographic studio in New York, working for the major illustrated magazines of the day, including *Fortune*, *Life*, and *Newsweek*. For half a century he photographed many illustrious cultural figures of the twentieth century in a black-and-white style of emphatic, gritty elegance, which became classic in modern portrait photography.

Arnold Newman

American, born in 1918, died in 2006

BOTTOM ROW

Larry Rivers, Southampton, N.Y., 1975

Gelatin silver-print collage

Jim Dine, New York City, 1978

**George Segal, North Brunswick,
New Jersey, 1985**

Aaron Siskind, New York, N.Y., 1976

**Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe,
An American Place, New York City, 1944**

Man Ray, Paris, 1960

Gelatin silver prints

**Gift of Augusta and Arnold Newman, 1994-31, 1994-34,
1994-23, 2004-73, 1994-19, 1994-20**

Andrea Geyer

German, born in 1971

Constellations (Florine Stettheimer after Genthe), 2018

Collaged archival print on paper

Purchase: Arts Acquisition Committee Fund, 2019-36

Andrea Geyer is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York City. She reactivates existing depictions of those who identify as women to recall particular locations, events, or biographies. Here the artist appropriates a photograph of Florine Stettheimer (born in 1871, died in 1944) by Arnold Genthe (born in 1869, died in 1942). Known mainly for photographing San Francisco, Genthe was later a society portraitist and part of the artistic and literary salon that the Stettheimer sisters hosted in New York in the 1920s. Geyer overlays the image with linear, crystalline geometry, as if Florine is snared in a net.

Andy Warhol

American, born in 1928, died in 1987

The Marx Brothers, 1980

Screenprint on paper

Gift of Lorraine and Martin Beitler, 2006-64.7

The Marx Brothers made major contributions to comedy in the twentieth century, spanning the eras of vaudeville, stage, film, and television. This work is one of a series that Andy Warhol made of prominent figures in modern science, philosophy, art, literature, music, and public life. The comic trio—the unflappable Chico, the wise-cracking dandy Groucho, and the affable clown Harpo—exerted a lasting influence on modern culture. Warhol’s obsession with mass media, art, photography, film, and fame is expressed using the bold color, stark geometry, and incisive lines of Pop art.

Deborah Kass

American, born in 1952

Six Blue Barbras (The Jewish Jackie Series), 1992

Screenprint and acrylic on canvas

Gift of Seth Cohen, 2004-10

Deborah Kass appropriates the methods of the great appropriator, Andy Warhol, for her own canon of Jewish celebrities. In the Warhol Project, made between 1992 and 2000, the artist ironically adopts the techniques of the Pop master to place Barbra Streisand in the pantheon of famous Jewish women. Streisand's story and power—as one of the best-selling recording artists of all time—have made her a household name and a cultural touchstone. Kass repeats the star's bold visage, set against a midnight blue ground, playing up the tension between undertones of romantic longing and Streisand's commodification by the mass media.

Larry Rivers

American, born in 1923, died in 2002

Portrait of Vera List, c. 1965

**Paint, charcoal, wood, tape, Plexiglas, and
aluminum window frame**

Gift of Vera G. List, 1984-21

Vera List (born in 1908, died in 2002) was a champion of contemporary art and a lifelong trustee of the Jewish Museum. Larry Rivers fragments List's face and body to pay homage to cubism and Dada. The storm window that frames the subject—evoking associations of the eye as the “window” to the soul—can be adjusted to reveal further images.