The Morgan Library & Museum

IRVING PENN

Irving Penn (b. 1917, Plainfield, NJ) enrolled at the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art in 1934; there he studied design with Alexey Brodovitch. In 1938 Penn began a career in New York City as a graphic artist.

After a year spent painting in Mexico, Penn returned to New York and began work at *Vogue* magazine where Alexander Liberman was art director. Liberman encouraged Penn to take his first color photograph -- a still life -- that ultimately became the October 1, 1943 cover of *Vogue*. Thus began a close collaboration with the magazine that continues to the present date. In addition to his editorial and fashion work for *Vogue*, Penn has photographed for other magazines and for a number of commercial clients in America and abroad.

In 1984 the Museum of Modern Art, New York, honored Penn with a retrospective exhibition that traveled to museums in twelve countries. Six years later, The National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., jointly organized "Irving Penn: Master Images," an exhibition highlighting a gift of 120 works from the artist. In 2005 the National Gallery of Art presented "Irving Penn: Platinum Prints," an exhibition of over 90 platinum prints given by Penn to the National Gallery of Art in 2002.

Penn's photographs are in the collections of major museums in America and abroad, including the Moderna Museet, Stockholm; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Penn made a major donation of prints and archival material to the Art Institute of Chicago in 1997.

Penn has published eleven books of photographs: *Moments Preserved* (1960); *Worlds in a Small Room* (1974); *Inventive Paris Clothes* (1977); *Flowers* (1980); *Issey Miyake* (1988); *Passage* (1991); *Still Life* (2001); *Dancer* (2001); *Earthly Bodies: Irving Penn's Nudes, 1949-50* (2002); *A Notebook at Random* (2004); *Photographs of Dahomey* (2004); and two books of drawings.

Irving Penn lives and works in New York City.