

DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION OF FASHION DESIGNER KASPER TO BE EXHIBITED AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM BEGINNING JANUARY 21

*SHOW INCLUDES OUTSTANDING WORKS FROM THE LATE RENAISSANCE AS
WELL AS MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHY*

**Artists Represented Range from Fra Bartolommeo and Giorgio Vasari to Pablo
Picasso, Henri Matisse, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Jenny Holzer**

★★Press Preview: Thursday, January 20, 10 a.m. until noon★★
RSVP: (212) 590-0393, media@themorgan.org

New York, NY, December 8, 2010—The art collection assembled by American fashion designer Herbert Kasper—known simply as Kasper—is exceptional for its distinctive character and superb quality. Beginning January 21, 2011, The Morgan Library & Museum presents the collection to the public for the very first time, offering visitors a rare opportunity to see this extraordinary group of drawings and photographs. *Mannerism and Modernism: The Kasper Collection of Drawings and Photographs* is on view through May 1, 2011.



Hans Hoffmann (1540/50–1591/92), *An Affenpinscher*, 1580, watercolor and gouache on vellum, 10 x 14 1/4 inches (25.5 x 36 cm). Kasper Collection.

The exhibition features over one hundred works, including old master drawings, modern and contemporary works on paper, and photography. The unusual, tripartite nature of the Kasper Collection is a testament to both Kasper's personal taste and his desire to build a truly unique collection.

A particular focus of Kasper's activity as a collector has been sixteenth-century European art, notably drawings by masters associated with Mannerism—a style distinguished by its emphasis upon elegance, artifice, and sophistication.

Dubbed the “stylish style” by art historian John Shearman, Mannerism broke with the classical restraint of the preceding Renaissance period and is represented in the exhibition by important works created by Giulio

Romano, Polidoro da Caravaggio, Parmigianino, Peter Candid, Hendrick Goltzius, and Giorgio Vasari, among others. The earliest drawing on view, Fra Bartolommeo's *Figures Fighting (Study for The Rape of Dinah?)*, marks the end of the High Renaissance and reveals the artist's pursuit of a dynamic composition populated with classically proportioned figures. Paolo Veronese's arresting pen and ink studies for *The Consecration of David* exemplify the energetic line and complex poses associated with the Mannerist style. The exhibition also features three exceptionally fine sheets by Perino del Vaga and two by his younger Roman contemporary Taddeo Zuccaro.

Well represented are Northern artists such as Maarten van Heemskerck; his *Susanna and Her Relatives Praising the Lord* reveals the influence of Italian art in the sculptural treatment of the figures and classical inspiration of the buildings. In Hans Hoffmann's charming *An Affenpinscher*, the artist employs watercolor and gouache in a manner reminiscent of Albrecht Dürer.

Equally impressive are Kasper's holdings of modern and contemporary drawings. This part of the collection features important Cubist works by Pablo Picasso and Juan Gris. Picasso's *Glass and Bass Bottle on a Table*, for instance, combines different viewpoints and collaged materials to challenge "the reality in nature." Juan Gris's *The Coffee Grinder* destabilizes the genre of still-life by transforming household items into geometric abstractions. Also on view are significant works by Henri Matisse, Jean Dubuffet, Cy Twombly, Ed Ruscha, Richard Serra, and Anselm Kiefer.

Photographs constitute the most diverse portion of Kasper's collection, with excellent prints by major historical figures, in addition to numerous works by emerging artists. The photographs span the early twentieth century to the present, chronicling the evolution of the medium through works by Constantin Brancusi, Hilla and Bernd Becher, Robert Mapplethorpe, Jenny Holzer, and Vik Muniz. Man Ray's *Max Ernst Sand Painting* records the appearance of a drawing of a female figure incised in the sand by the photographer's longtime friend and fellow Surrealist Max Ernst. Brassai's *The Imp, Belleville, Paris* (from the Graffiti series) belongs to the genre of street photography, also well represented in the exhibition. Among several images by Hiroshi Sugimoto is one of his iconic, long-exposure photographs of opulent movie houses, *Beacon Theatre, New York*. Kasper has considerable depth in the work of a number of artists, including the innovative contemporary photographer Adam Fuss (b. 1961), whose hauntingly beautiful images include a photogram of the entrails of a rabbit from the series *Details of Love* and a monumental photograph of the chrysalis of a butterfly, *Untitled*, of 2003.



Juan Gris (1887–1927), *Coffee Grinder*, 1916, gouache and graphite pencil on paper, 18 ¼ x 11 5/8 inches (45.7 x 27.9 cm). Kasper Collection.



William Eggleston (b. 1939), *Stage 14, Parking Lot, Hollywood*, 1999–2000, iris print, 24 x 30 inches (61 x 76.2 cm). Kasper Collection. © Eggleston Artistic Trust Courtesy Cheim & Read, New York.

“The Morgan is delighted to make this truly exceptional private collection available to the general public,” said William M. Griswold, director of the museum. “Kasper’s drawings and photographs are exhilarating in their diversity yet unified by the collector’s distinctive vision and devotion to quality.”

Kasper began collecting drawings as a student in Paris in the 1950s and continues to add to the collection. He relies upon a process of selection that begins with a personal, visceral reaction to the work of art. He then

assesses the work’s relationship to the collection overall and its importance in the artist’s oeuvre, consulting with curators, collectors, and art dealers. Kasper remarks, “Quality has always been very important to me. That doesn’t mean that the works I collect are the most well-known by a particular artist, but they have to have a sense of being something that’s original and important.”

The exhibition celebrates Kasper’s gift and promised gift of a number of major works in the show to The Morgan Library & Museum.

ORGANIZATION AND SPONSORSHIP

Mannerism and Modernism: The Kasper Collection of Drawings and Photographs is organized by the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Morgan Library & Museum. Axel Vervoordt and Philip Feyfer played a crucial role in the design of the exhibition.



The Morgan exhibition program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

PUBLICATION

A catalogue accompanying the exhibition features more than 150 works, including reproductions of all of Kasper’s major acquisitions, and provides the first comprehensive overview of the collection.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Family Program

Tear it Up and Stick it Down: Create with Collage

Follow in the footsteps of Pablo Picasso and choose from a lush variety of paper to explore collage. After a tour of *Mannerism and Modernism: The Kasper Collection of Drawings and Photographs* with artist and educator Sarah Mostow, families will be invited to tackle a series of design problems that investigate color relationships, compositional arrangement, and the use of texture. Appropriate for ages 6–12. This workshop is limited to families with children. There is a limit of two adult tickets per family.

Saturday, January 29, 2–4 pm

Discussion

Photographer's Eye Gallery Discussion

Clifford Ross

To coincide with the exhibition *Mannerism and Modernism: The Kasper Collection of Drawings and Photographs*, artist Clifford Ross will participate in an in-gallery conversation about his photographs on view. Ross has written several books on Edward Gorey and edited the anthology *Abstract Expressionism: Creators and Critics*. His work can be found in numerous collections worldwide including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. This program is limited to thirty attendees.

Tuesday, February 15, 6:30 pm

Gallery Talk

Mannerism and Modernism: The Kasper Collection of Drawings and Photographs

Esther Bell, Moore Curatorial Fellow, Department of Drawings and Prints, and Zooey Martin, Curatorial Assistant, Modern and Contemporary Drawings, Department of Drawings and Prints, The Morgan Library & Museum

Friday, March 4, 7 pm

Adult Workshop

The Power of Paper: A Collage Experience

The workshop begins with a tour of the exhibition led by Art Student League instructor and artist Mariano Del Rosario. He will discuss the popularizing influences on collage by Picasso and other artists. In the following hands-on workshop, participants will expand on basic compositional principles, explore the layering and image-making processes, and learn more about the infinite possibilities and power of collage using repurposed magazine clippings and found materials. Supplies included.

Friday, March 11, 6:30–8:30 pm

Film

Black White + Gray: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe

(2007, 76 minutes)

Director: James Crump

During the 1970s and 80s, the New York City art scene was abuzz with a new spirit, and photographer Robert Mapplethorpe would emerge at the center of it. This documentary explores the long and symbiotic relationship between Mapplethorpe and Sam Wagstaff, an older and innovative museum curator who brought Mapplethorpe into the art world. Narrated by Joan Juliet Buck, with extensive commentary from major art and cultural figures such as Patti Smith, Dominick Dunne, Dick Cavett, and Tony Smith. This screening coincides with the exhibition.

Friday, March 11, 7 pm

The Morgan Library & Museum

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405

212.685.0008

www.themorgan.org

Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Admission

\$15 for adults; \$10 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.