

## FACT SHEET

**Exhibition:** *Close Encounters*  
*Irving Penn Portraits of Artists and Writers*

**Press Preview:** Thursday, January 17, 10 a.m. to NOON

**Dates:** **January 18 through April 13, 2008**

**Summary:** The Morgan Library & Museum's first exhibition of modern photography, *Close Encounters: Irving Penn Portraits of Artists and Writers* showcases a group of sixty-seven portraits of some of the twentieth century's most influential artists, authors, and performers by legendary photographer Irving Penn (b. 1917). All works were acquired by the Morgan in 2007 and represent the institution's first acquisitions in this field. Featuring portraits from every decade of Penn's sixty-year career to date, the exhibition begins with a 1944 photograph of Giorgio de Chirico and ends with a 2006 portrait of Jasper Johns.

**Content:** *Close Encounters: Irving Penn Portraits of Artists and Writers* is international in scope, but includes many figures who lived and worked in New York, and who helped define it as a cultural capital in the decades following World War II. Subjects represented in the exhibition include:

### **Visual Artists**

Josef Albers \* Francis Bacon \* Louise Bourgeois \* Paul Cadmus \* Alexander Calder \* Stuart Davis \* Marc Chagall \* Giorgio de Chirico \* Salvador Dalí \* André Derain \* Marcel Duchamp \* Max Ernst \* Lyonel Feininger \* Alberto Giacometti \* George Grosz \* Jasper Johns \* Ellsworth Kelly \* Frederick Kiesler \* Willem de Kooning \* Loren MacIver \* Man Ray \* John Marin \* Joan Miró \* Henry Moore \* Barnett Newman \* Georgia O'Keeffe \* Pablo Picasso \* Robert Rauschenberg \* David Smith \* Stanley Spencer \* Saul Steinberg \* Yves Tanguy \* Dorothea Tanning

### **Writers**

Edward Albee \* W. H. Auden \* Simone de Beauvoir \* Saul Bellow \* Jorge Luis Borges \* Italo Calvino \* Truman Capote \* Jean Cocteau \* Colette \* T. S. Eliot \* Langston Hughes \* Norman Mailer \* W. Somerset Maugham \* Carson McCullers \* H. L. Mencken \* Arthur Miller \* Vladimir Nabokov \* George Jean Nathan \* S. J. Perelman \* Philip Roth \* Isaac Bashevis Singer \* John Updike \* Tennessee Williams

### **Performing Artists, Composers, Choreographers, & Film Directors**

Woody Allen (as Charlie Chaplin) \* George Balanchine \* Ballet Society \* Rudolf Nureyev \* John Cage \* Elliott Carter \* Aaron Copland \* Janis Joplin with Big Brother and the Holding Company \* The Grateful Dead \* Oscar Hammerstein II \* Richard Rodgers \* Stephen Sondheim \* Igor Stravinsky \* Ingmar Bergman \* Tanaquil LeClercq \* Orson Welles

(over)

### **Subjects with Works in the Morgan's Collections**

Some of Penn's subjects featured in the exhibition are icons whose own letters, manuscripts, drawings, and musical scores are included in the Morgan's permanent collections. Beginning in January, 2008, a selection of these original works is on view in the Highlights from the Morgan's Collections installation, featuring examples such as Tennessee Williams (manuscript diary), John Cage (music manuscript of *Three dances for two prepared pianos*), Igor Stravinsky (music manuscript of *Ragtime*), T. S. Eliot (autographed draft of poem *Defence of the Islands*), Joan Miró (illustration for a poem by Éluard) and Georgia O'Keeffe (advertising poster).

### **Organization and Sponsors:**

Thirty-five of the works in the show are the gift of Mr. Penn. The acquisition of the remaining thirty-two was made possible through the efforts of Morgan director Charles E. Pierce, Jr.; Morgan trustee and vice president Richard L. Menschel; and Peter MacGill, president of Pace/MacGill Gallery, who has represented Mr. Penn for many years.

This exhibition is made possible by a generous gift from Richard and Ronay Menschel.

### **Education and Programs:**

The Morgan offers a number of special programs held in conjunction with its exhibitions. For more information, please contact the Education Department at (212) 590-0333.

### **About the Morgan:**

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, 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 it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Nearly a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its new campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

### **Hours and Location:**

Located at 225 Madison Avenue between 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Streets, the Morgan is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 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 Monday and 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:**

Adults \$12; children (under 16) \$8; seniors (65 and over) \$8; students (with current ID) \$8; free to members and children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

*For further information please contact Sandra Ho, Communications and Marketing department, (212) 590-0311, or at [media@themorgan.org](mailto:media@themorgan.org).*