

Lamont Gallery Exhibition Archive

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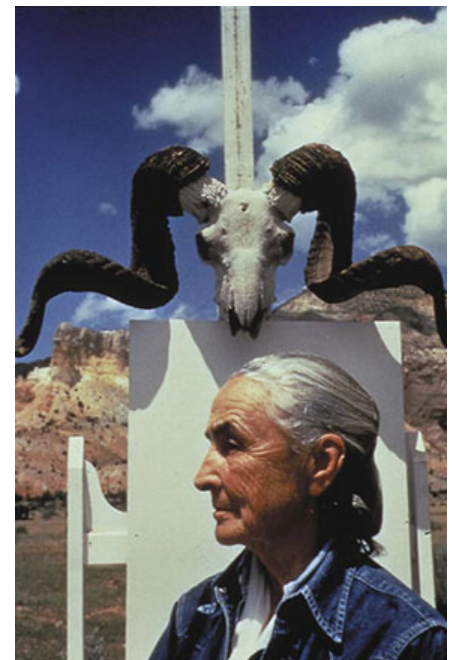
Arnold Newman: LUMINARIES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IN ART, POLITICS AND CULTURE / JUNE 26 – AUGUST 1, 2012

This exhibition is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions

Arnold Newman: Luminaries of the Twentieth Century in Art, Politics and Culture
June 26 - August 1, 2012

Arnold Newman: Luminaries of the Twentieth Century in Art, Politics and Culture, features the photographs of one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. Hailed as the “Father of Environmental Portraiture,” Newman’s photographic work revolutionized portraiture, photographing subjects in their daily lives and surroundings. This concept, thanks to Newman, continues to be widely influential in portrait photography.

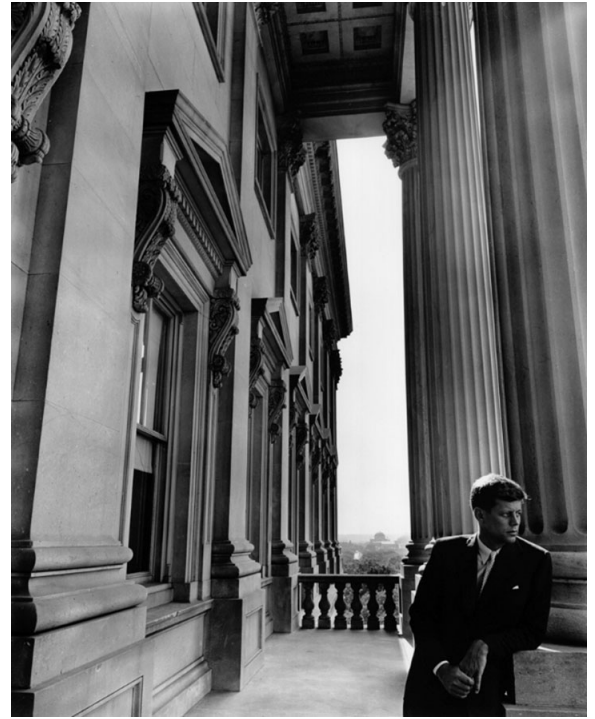
After studying at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida from 1936-1938, Newman worked in chain portrait studios throughout the East Coast to support his abstract and documentary work. He moved to New York in 1946, opened a studio, and began working commercially and artistically. Newman says he saw little distinction between commissioned and self-generated projects, working simultaneously toward both. Portraiture, for Newman, was “... saddled with a history of flattery, fawning, ridiculous images, standard poses, attitudes ... tainted with the worst of commercialization.”



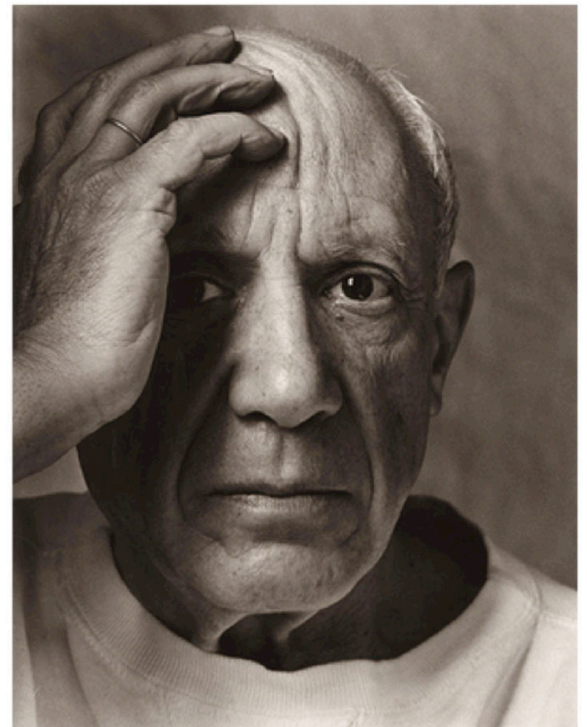
Copyright Arnold Newman, Georgia O'Keeffe, painter, Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, 1968, Color Print

Newman's professional and aesthetic decisions sprung from the same source: his drive to realize symbolic visions of the human spirit. Some of his most famous portraits depict artists extolling his vision and reflecting the empathy he held for these people. Newman described his work as an outgrowth of himself: "It reflects me, my fascination with people, the physical world around us, and the exciting medium in which I work. I do not claim that my way is the best or the only way, it is simply my way. It is an expression of myself, of the way I think and feel."

Sara Zela, Interim Director, Lamont Gallery, offers perspective and appreciation on the Arnold Newman exhibit: "Newman's environmental portraiture captures the reflection of the some of the most prominent personalities of the twentieth century. Each photograph reveals the subject matter in a very personal or meaningful space, allowing the gallery visitor a glimpse into the lives of many cultural icons. Newman photographed Georgia O'Keeffe outside at Ghost Ranch, where she spent many summers of her life exploring the desert and painting many of her famous works on canvas. Newman places O'Keeffe in front of a ram skull with the desert in the background, reminding us of the subject matter O'Keeffe loved to paint. Newman also chooses to photograph O'Keeffe gazing off to the right of the portrait showing the viewer her profile. This positioning may leave each viewer to ponder, what is she looking at off in the distance? Is she pondering what her next work will be? This image as well as 60 additional images, such as John F. Kennedy, Woody Allen and Igor Stravinsky, will be on display for our viewers to engage, interpret and also ponder questions into the lives of many iconic figures Arnold Newman photographed. The Lamont Gallery is thrilled to have these works here to share with our students, faculty, staff and visitors."



Copyright Arnold Newman, John F. Kennedy, United States Senator, future President of the United States of America, Washington, D.C., 1953, Silver Gelatin Print



Copyright Arnold Newman, Pablo Picasso, painter, sculptor, printmaker, Valluris, France, 1954, Silver Gelatin Print