



**Presentation of Rarely Seen Works by Early 20th Century Female Practitioners Alongside
Acclaimed Works Expands Narrative of Modern Photography**

***A Modern Love: Photographs from the Israel Museum Brings Together Iconic Masterpieces and
Unknown Avant-garde Artists from the Israel Museum's Collections***

On view at Israel Museum July 16, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Jerusalem, Israel, August 1, 2019 – *Modern Love: Photographs from the Israel Museum* delves into the work of photographers who shaped and defined photography between 1900-1945, helping to expand public understanding of early modern photography through a presentation that brings together acclaimed and unknown works by male and female artists. Featuring around 200 works from seminal artists such as Alfred Stieglitz, August Sander, Edward Weston, and Man Ray, alongside lesser-known photographers such as Liselotte Grschebina, ringl+pit, Laure Albin Guillot, and Frieda Meyer Jakobson, the exhibition fosters a deeper level of understanding around the development of cultural production at the time and uncovers unexpected and surprising discoveries, including a personal note written by Alfred Stieglitz on the back of the 1916 print *Portrait of Marie Rapp*. The exhibition also fosters contemporary relevancy around the works, connecting camera techniques by Modern photographers to current images captured by cell phones.

“*Modern Love: Photographs from the Israel Museum* showcases the Museum’s incredible photography collection and demonstrates its continued commitment to supporting the exploration and exhibition of images through robust programming and curatorial expertise,” said Ido Bruno, Anne and Jerome Fisher Director of the Israel Museum. “I am thrilled that our visitors will have the opportunity to experience this unique selection of iconic Modern photographs drawn from the Museum’s extensive holdings, many which are going on display for the first time.”

Drawing on a recent gift from collector Gary B. Sokol of exceptional images taken by female avant-garde photographers active between 1918 and 1939, as well as the acclaimed Noel and Harriette Levine Collection, *Modern Love* showcases the range and significance of the Israel Museum’s Modern Photography Collection. Key highlights in the exhibition include:

- *Study of a Male Nude* by Laure Albin Guillot, 1939 – A celebrated photographer and influential cultural figure during interwar Paris, Guillot’s work and classicist style—which differed from the more conventional style of the time—has received little attention in recent Modern photography surveys. This is the only male nude photograph in the exhibition, a subject rarely captured by photographers during that period.
- *Composition no. 10* by Florence Henri, 1928 – Although her work was overlooked for many years after World War II, Henri’s innovative style was celebrated by her contemporaries. At the height of her success, her work was compared to Man Ray and Herbert Bayer and included in major avant-garde exhibitions throughout Europe.
- *Frances with a Flower* by Consuelo Kanaga, 1931-32 – A political and social activist that supported racial equality, Kanaga is considered one of the first 20th-century Caucasian American photographers to focus on African American subjects in her work. This photograph subverts the classic Western depiction of a woman holding a flower by featuring a black subject instead of the traditionally white one.

A unique gallery design positions labels on custom shelves below each work, facilitating a meaningful and unobstructed exploration of each image that also alludes to their previous display in the homes of private

collectors. This intimate presentation helps illuminate unexpected and surprising discoveries, including the similarities and differences between a 1926 and a 1927 print of Man Ray's acclaimed *Noire et blanche* (*Black and white*). The Israel Museum is the only institution to hold two early prints of the work and *Modern Love* creates a rare opportunity to compare and examine them, cultivating dialogue around the wider theme of image reproduction and the artist's approach to manually capturing an image. A personal note by Alfred Stieglitz on the back of the 1916 print *Portrait of Marie Rapp* was also uncovered during the exhibition process. It testifies to their close working relationship managing both his journal, *Camera Work*, and business, 291 Gallery, and reads "Four years ---- Marie Rapp, April, 1916. To Marie – '291.'"

"*Modern Love* marks an exciting opportunity to bring together extraordinary works from the institution's core collections," said Dr. Noam Gal, Head of Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. "The recent gift from the collection of Gary B. Sokol facilitates the inclusion of a substantial number of rare works by female practitioners between 1900 and 1945, creating important and more holistic understanding of Modern Photography."

The exhibition is accompanied by audio guides offering expert insights and a comprehensive catalogue by curator Dr. Gal comprising historical background and interpretation around each work.

A Modern Love: Photographs from the Israel Museum is organized by The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. It is curated by Dr. Noam Gal, Horace and Grace Goldsmith Curator, Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

About The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, is Israel's foremost cultural institution and one of the world's leading encyclopedic museums. Founded in 1965, the Museum's terraced 20-acre campus houses a wide-ranging collection of art and archaeology of world-class status. Its holdings include the world's most comprehensive collections of the archaeology of the Holy Land, and Jewish Art and Life, as well as significant and extensive holdings in the Fine Arts, the latter encompassing ten separate departments: Israeli Art; European Art; Modern Art; Contemporary Art; Prints and Drawings; Photography; Design and Architecture; Asian Art; the Arts of Africa and Oceania; and the Arts of the Americas. The campus also includes the Shrine of the Book, which houses the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls, the world's oldest biblical manuscripts; an extensive model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period; the Billy Rose Art Garden; and a dynamic Youth Wing for Art Education whose educational programs attract over 100,000 children every year. In just over fifty years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects through an unparalleled legacy of gifts and support from a wide circle of friends and patrons throughout the world. The Museum also embraces a dynamic program of some 20–25 new exhibitions a year, and a rich annual program of publications, educational activities, and special cultural events that reach out to every sector of the population.

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