

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUANE MICHALS The Portraitist

February 19 – March 21, 2015

Opening Reception

Thursday, February 19

6:00 – 8:00 pm

No one is what they appear to be, especially posing in front of a camera.

– Duane Michals



DC Moore Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition *Duane Michals: The Portraitist*, a selection of new work in which Michals reinvigorates the possibilities of portraiture through the innovative use of sequencing, reflections, multiple exposures, overpainting, and handwritten annotations.

The black-and-white photographs on view were developed from never-before-printed negatives that Michals exposed in the course of his career. His subjects include artist Jasper Johns, photographer Art Kane, actress Hildegard Knef, and singer Barbra Streisand. A selection of earlier portraits, including those of Balthus, Bertha and Charles Burchfield, Joseph Cornell, and René Magritte, provides context for the recent work. As the variety of poses, settings, viewpoints, and formats in these images demonstrates, Michals adapts the style of each portrait to the individual, thereby eschewing any formula that speaks more to photographer than sitter.

Wary of the commonplaces of portraiture, Michals rejects the notion of “looking at people with the pretensions of looking into them.” He has developed an alternative approach, which he terms “prose portraiture.” Rather than recording a physical likeness, he works to “suggest the atmosphere of the sitter’s identity, which is the sum total of who they are... A prose portrait might require three or four photographs to reveal something about what the sitter does in life that defines him or her. A face does not necessarily need to be seen; most people’s significance won’t be found there.” Michals further disrupts expectations by intervening on the surface with annotations often conveying his impressions of a person via witty or poetic commentary scrawled onto the print.

A major retrospective, *Storyteller: The Photographs of Duane Michals*, organized by the Carnegie Museum of Art and presented there in the fall of 2014, is traveling to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem. It will be on view there from March 14 through June 21, 2015. A monograph, published by Prestel with essays by Linda Benedict-Jones, Allen Ellenzweig, Marah Gubar, Max Kozloff, and Aaron Schuman, accompanies the exhibition. The Monacelli Press released the publication *ABCDuane: A Duane Michals Primer* in 2014.

Michals’s first solo museum exhibition was at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1970. His work belongs to numerous permanent (over)

(left) *Duane Photographs Anthony Red*, 2015. Oil on five gelatin silver prints with hand-applied text 4 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches (each image); 7 7/8 x 9 7/8 inches (each paper). Edition 1/5.

collections in the U.S. and abroad, including the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Moderna Museet, Stockholm; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



(right) *Funny Girl* (detail), c. 1960-65/2015. Gelatin silver print with hand-applied text, 12 x 12 in. (image).

Also on view: *Whitfield Lovell: Distant Relations, Selections from the Kin Series*

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DC MOORE GALLERY specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. For more information, for photographs, or to arrange a viewing, please call 212-247-2111 or email Lily Zhou at lzhou@dcmooregallery.com.