

# Glenbow

# KARSH

REGARDING HEROES

April 2 — June 15, 2011

About the Exhibition



Yousuf Karsh, Winston Churchill © Estate of Yousuf Karsh



Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002) is one of the world's greatest portrait photographers; no one else has photographed so many men and women of international renown. To be "Karshed" is a mark of accomplishment. This exhibition was created as a retrospective marking the 200<sup>th</sup> centenary of Yousuf Karsh's birth and includes 100 portraits from a collection of master prints donated to the Art Institute of Chicago by Karsh's widow, Estrellita Karsh. The prints are considered Karsh's favourites and are presented together for the first time ever.

What makes the portraits Karsh's favourites are their ability to capture each iconic personality in that rare moment when the mask of celebrity was dropped to reveal the person's true inner personality. Karsh's images are approachable by anyone, regardless of language or culture, and through these portraits we are able to rediscover eminent personalities of the past 100 years.

Karsh's personal recollections of each portrait sitting inform our understanding of each icon. The serene Audrey Hepburn regaled Karsh with her experiences of the Second World War, and Winston Churchill told Karsh "You can even make a roaring lion stand still to be photographed."

Surrounded in a gallery by these expertly crafted photographs, one feels present at a marvellous party attended by history's most famous people. Karsh makes these world renowned people engaging in a way unimaginable – he provides the viewer with the masterful illusion that he knows each icon in an intimate way. Thus he reveals the inner humanism of such icons as Walt Disney, Fidel Castro and Jacqueline Kennedy.

Learning



Yousuf Karsh offers insights into history, politics and women through the ages. Look at the links below for PDF handouts related to these subjects.

[Karsh's History: Places](#)  [243 K]

[Karsh's History: Politics](#)  [228 K]

[Karsh's History: Women](#)  [207 K]

[Visit the Library and Archives Canada link here to see their collection of Karsh material.](#)

[Karsh in the Classroom, click here for Learning Resources from Festival Karsh.](#)

This was an anniversary celebrating 100 years since Karsh's birth that was held in Ottawa. It featured a major exhibition Karsh: Image Maker and The Karsh Trail, a self-directed walking tour.

## Media

Download a Windows Media Audio stream via [CBC Digital Archives](#) from Expo 67 as Yousuf Karsh takes listeners on a tour through his portraits at the pavilion there.

[Expedition: The incomparable Karsh](#)  Duration [3:39]

CBC Homestretch host Ken Lima-Coelho talks to Curator Colleen Sharpe about the Glenbow Museum exhibit Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes. Listen to the Homestretch piece by [clicking the link here](#).  
[Duration 6:30]

Photographer George Webber speaks with host Ken Lima-Coelho about Karsh's Audrey Hepburn image. To listen to the CBC Homestretch piece [click this link](#).  
Duration [7:05]

## Glenbow Shop



The Glenbow Museum Shop is offering a limited edition Karsh: Regarding Heroes poster.

200 Available

Size: 16" X 22"

Features: 4 Photos ( Black & White)

Price: **\$19.95**

[Enlarge Image](#)

## Beyond our Walls

[Click here to visit the Karsh estate website.](#)



In 2009 Ottawa celebrated the 100th anniversary of Yousuf Karsh. This was a city-wide celebration of his birth included a major exhibition Karsh: Image Maker and included the Karsh Trail, a walking tour of sites related to Karsh around downtown Ottawa.

Visit the Festival Karsh site by [clicking here.](#)

Karsh is on Canada Post stamps! See what they look like by [clicking here.](#)

## Further Reading

There is lots of material on Yousuf Karsh, take our own Glenbow Museum Library, it has the following collection:

- Karsh, Yousuf. *Faces of destiny : portraits by Karsh.* 1946
- Karsh, Yousuf. *Portraits of greatness.* 1961
- Fenwick, Kathleen M. *Canadian prints and drawings: with a collection of photographs by Yousuf Karsh.* 1967
- Karsh, Yousuf. *Karsh portfolio.* c1967

- Karsh, Yousuf. Karsh portraits. 1976
- Karsh, Yousuf. Men who make our world : portraits by Karsh. 1977
- Karsh, Yousuf. Karsh, a fifty-year retrospective. 1986, c1983
- Borcoman, James [et.al.]. Karsh, the art of the portrait. 1989
- Karsh, Yousuf. Karsh : American legends : photographs and commentary. c1992
- Karsh, Yousuf. Karsh, a sixty-year retrospective. 1997, c1996
- Tippett, Maria. Portrait in light and shadow : the life of Yousuf Karsh. c2007
- Getty, Cassandra and Fielder, Jerry. Yousuf Karsh : industrial images. 2007
- Fielder, Jerry and Karsh, Yousuf. Karsh : a biography in images. 2009, c2003
- Thomas, Ann. Karsh & Steichen : the art of the celebrity portrait / curator, Ann Thomas. The National Gallery of Canada. 2009
- Kouba, Patricia. Regarding heroes / Yousuf Karsh ; selected, with an essay, by David Travis. 2009

Organized by The Art Institute of Chicago and curated by David Travis, Former Chair and Curator of Photography at The Art Institute of Chicago, and toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

Supported by:

Supported by:

