

Dressed and Undressed: Selections from the Permanent Collection
November 7, 2015 through March 6, 2016

Including work by American and Mexican artists from The Baker Museum's permanent collection, *Dressed and Undressed* presents 20th century representations of the female form as well as the clothing, shoes and accessories that adorn it. This exhibition includes paintings, drawings and photographs that celebrate the art of fashion and the diverse ways to represent female beauty.

A complement to *Yves Saint Laurent + Halston: Fashioning the '70s*, this exhibition features a variety of pictorial styles. Works by Tom Gengler and José Antonio Villalobos exemplify the traditional treatment of the female body in art: the fluid, delicate forms emphasize femininity and universal beauty, while those by Abraham Walkowitz and Alexander Archipenko rely on avant-garde styles to portray subject matter. The selection invites the viewer to identify the correspondences between the exquisite designs by Saint-Laurent and Halston displayed in the main gallery and the fascinating works on view here.

This exhibition has been organized by The Baker Museum.

Extended Labels



1999.3.005
Alfred Eisenstaedt
Sophia Loren in "Madame"
Gelatin silver print
25.5 x 21 inches
Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum. 1999.3.005. Bequest of Herbert and Ruth Abramson.

Sophia Loren is captured in this photograph in a relaxed pose showing her natural smile and charisma while dressed in a simple outfit. Considered for decades as the embodiment of ideal beauty, the award-winning actress exudes confidence as she looks away from the camera.



1999.3.006
Alfred Eisenstaedt
Katharine Hepburn
Gelatin silver print
25.5 x 21 inches
Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum. 1999.3.006. Bequest of Herbert and Ruth Abramson.

A prolific photojournalist, Alfred Eisenstaedt immortalized important personalities of the 20th century in his photographs. From Clark Gable, Sophia Loren and Marilyn Monroe, to Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein and John F. Kennedy, Eisenstaedt created the images by which we know many of these famous figures. This photo of Katharine Hepburn conveys the sophistication, elegance and classic beauty of the actress.



2000.15.166
Guy Pène du Bois
Russian Singer
Oil on canvas
29 7/8 x 25 inches
Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2000.15.166. Museum purchase.

A significant figure in the history of American painting, Guy Pène du Bois was also a well-known art critic and art teacher whose work is associated with the urban realists of New York in the early 20th century. In his work, du Bois often depicts elegant women at the opera, socialites strolling city streets and fashionably dressed spectators sitting at cafés or enjoying horse races. In *Russian Singer*, the figure stands before the audience or perhaps is about to go on stage to perform as she is possibly holding the libretto in her left hand.



2000.15.171
Guy Pène du Bois
Shoe Shop
n.d. (1931, according to the website of the Wadsworth Atheneum)
Oil on canvas
25 x 20 inches
Artist—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2000.15.171. Museum purchase.

A woman sits casually in *Shoe Shopping*, perhaps waiting for the store attendant to bring her other options to try on. An opened shoebox on the floor next to her signals she has already tried on a pair of shoes. Her expression is indiscernible, and her specific location is unknown. In the background, several women absorbed in their own worlds are also trying on shoes, each. This everyday scene is characteristic of du Bois' style and subject matter.



2000.15.254
Abraham Walkowitz
Three Abstract Women
1915
Watercolor on paper
22 1/2 x 17 inches
Artist—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2000.15.254. Museum purchase.
Object number: 2000.15.254

In 1907 Abraham Walkowitz saw American dancer Isadora Duncan perform, an event that greatly impacted him. He created hundreds of drawings of Duncan in movement and wrote a book about her in his later years. It is possible that this work represents Duncan, dressed in her unique attire and with her arms extended upward in one of her signature poses. The two figures on either side echo her stance and the schematic brushwork suggests the flow of the dresses' fabric and bodies in motion.



2002.2.053
Alfredo Ramos Martínez
Vendedora de Flores (Flower Seller)
c.1940
43 x 79 1/2 in.
Gouache and charcoal on buff paper laid down on gypsum board
Artist—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2002.2.053. Gift of Harry Pollak.

Originally from Monterrey, Mexico, Alfredo Ramos Martínez portrays a dignified flower vendor in this work. Depicted frontally, the woman looks out directly at the viewer with a stern expression and solid stance while carrying an array of flowers on her right hand. Her fitted blouse and striped skirt emphasize her monumental presence and ancient goddess-like appearance.



2003.4.006
Tom Gengler
Bathers
1984
oil on canvas
15 x 20 inches
Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2003.4.006. Gift of Bank One.

This enigmatic painting by Tom Gengler shows a group of nude women in an unidentified landscape. The figure whose face we cannot see in the foreground wears blue jeans rolled up to her knees. It is perhaps the only indicator of an approximate time period for the scene—the rest of the figures appear undressed, some of them looking at each other while others seem to avoid eye contact. Their relationship is uncertain as is their interaction and setting.



2009.7.29
Philip Pearlstein
Seated Nude with Kimono
1983
Aquatint and etching
10 x 7 7/8 inches
20 1/2 x 17 x 1 inches framed
Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2009.7.29. Museum purchase.

Known for his unidealized representations of nude women, Philip Pearlstein composes intimate portrayals devoid of complex narratives. In *Seated Nude with Kimono*, he depicts a young woman seated sideways in a rattan chair. Her partly opened kimono reveals one of her breasts and legs. There is equal attention given to the model's body as to her clothing; the soft sheen of the fabric as well as the rich, vibrant colors contrast with her light skin.



2013.1.172
Erik Sandberg
Beautification
1998
Oil on board
8 x 8 inches
Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum. 2013.1.172. Gift of Olga Hirshhorn.

Erik Sandberg's work is characterized by attention to symbolic details and by a very particular visual language that oscillates between fantastical narrative and realistic elements. In this work the figures exude a grotesque quality reminiscent of carnivals. *Beautification* presents precisely the opposite of beauty; the grotesque and absurd is evokes a surreal carnival attraction.