

GRUPO ARTITUDE

PRESS RELEASE

George Hoyningen-Huene: The Master of Elegance & Allure

SINGAPORE, APRIL 24, 2024

Grupo Artitude is delighted to present the exhibition *George Hoyningen-Huene: The Master of Elegance & Allure* at ARTitude Galeria from 26 April to 24 May, in collaboration with the George Hoyningen-Huene Estate Archives. This is the first ever exhibition of his works in Singapore, showcased at the gallery's Dempsey Hill location. The exhibition features dozens of iconic black and white photographs, including portraits of artists, models and the upper crust of society, as well as breathtaking images of the stars of Hollywood's golden age.

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George Hoyningen-Huene (1900-1968) was acknowledged as one of the most iconic pioneers in the genre of fashion photography. He created some of the most striking portraits of the early twentieth century, stitching together art, high fashion and cinema.

George Hoyningen-Huene was a major figure in the cultural effervescence of Paris and New York in the 1920s and 1930s. His singular sensibility enabled him to create one-of-a-kind compositions that would inspire legions of photographers, notably Horst P. Horst, Irving Penn and Richard Avedon.

One section of the exhibition celebrates the photographer's connection to the fashion designer Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel, whom he first met in Paris in the early 1920s. It was a time of unprecedented creativity and Paris was the epicentre of high fashion and artistic ingenuity, a creative hub to which thousands gravitated from around the world. His carefully crafted fashion photographs captured the brilliance of many Paris designers, including Lanvin, Patou, and Schiaparelli.

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Hoyningen-Huene spent his childhood in St Petersburg and London and settled in Paris in 1920. He took lessons from the Cubist painter André Lhote and created sketches for his sister's fashion house. Before long, his talents were noticed by Vogue, and he began to produce backdrops and sets for photographic shoots. By 1926, Hoyningen-Huene was taking photographs himself and rapidly ascended to the role of Chief Photographer at Vogue Paris. A decade later he moved to New York to join Harper's Bazaar magazine.

Through artful manipulation of studio lights, he sculpted human forms and accentuated the surface qualities of luxurious fabrics. Inspired by the great architects and painters of the past, his pictures incorporate elements of Art Deco, Neoclassical and Baroque design with dramatic results. He was one of the first photographers to bring movement and naturalness to photographs of couture, and he saw every model as an individual, commenting 'models are women and not alabaster personalities.'

About the Exhibition Prints

In 1968, Hoyningen-Huene bequeathed his archive to his close friend Horst P. Horst, and in the 1980s Horst began to make platinum-palladium prints from the negatives for museums and art collectors. These prints have a lush, matte surface and are prized for their permanence and rich tonal range. The exhibition features many of the prints made under Horst's instruction, alongside new platinum-palladium prints created since 2020 by the George Hoyningen-Huene Estate Archives.

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Further Information

Hoyningen-Huene was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in the year 1900. As a teenager he fled the Russian revolution, escaping first to London, before moving to Paris in 1920. From 1926 onwards, he published numerous fashion and portrait photographs as the chief photographer of Vogue and Vanity Fair. In 1935, he travelled to the United States, where he started working for Harper's Bazaar. In 1947, Hoyningen-Huene moved to Hollywood, where he began teaching photography at the Arts Center School and working in the film industry. He died in 1968 in Los Angeles.

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A number of the world's leading museums, including the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Pompidou Center in Paris, and the V&A in London include Hoyningen-Huene's work in their respective collections.

In tandem with George Hoyningen-Huene's exhibition at Artitude Galeria, Leica Galerie Singapore, located within Raffles Hotel Arcade, will also present a curated array of his elegant black-and-white masterpieces. Leica is about photography, a universal language which transcends culture boundaries, captivates and encapsulates that moment in time for eternity. Over the span of two weeks in April/May, the collection of about 10 to 15 photographs, captured by George Hoyningen-Huene, one of the most iconic photographers of the twentieth century who had shot for Vogue, Vanity Fair and Harper's Bazaar will offer people from all walks of life to embark on a journey through his artistic vision and creative process. Each photo is printed in platinum-palladium which boasts a lush, matte surface and prized for their permanence and rich tonal range. A rare glimpse into the essence of George Hoyningen-Huene's mastery.

For more information about the exhibition, please visit <https://leica-store.sg/pages/leica-galerie>

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The exhibition at Artitude Galeria in Singapore coincides with the publication of the new book *George Hoyningen-Huene: Photography, Fashion, Film*, edited by Susanna Brown. The book is published by Thames & Hudson and includes contributions from ten specialists which will be available for sale at Leica Store at Raffles Hotel Arcade.

Chronology: The Life of George Hoyningen-Huene

1900 George Hoyningen-Huene is born in St Petersburg, Russia, third child of Baron Barthold von Hoyningen-Huene and Anne née Van Ness Lothrop. As the son of the Chief Equerry to Tsar Nicolas II, Hoyningen-Huene experiences a privileged childhood and is educated in art, literature and culture, including learning several languages.

1911 Visits Berlin with his aunt and is deeply impressed by classical sculpture.

1917 The Russian Revolution forces the teenage George and his mother to flee their home, and the stability and opulence they had previously known quickly vanishes. Travels to England and is enrolled in school in Surrey, near London.

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1919 Leaves England for southern Russia as an interpreter with the British Expeditionary Force.

1921 Hoyningen-Huene works a series of odd jobs including as a film extra in Paris.

1923 Works for sister Betty at Yteb, her Paris fashion house. Studies at open art studios, then takes lessons from Cubist painter André Lhote.

1924 Collaborates with Man Ray on a fashion photography portfolio of the most beautiful women in Paris.

1925 Signs contract as an illustrator for the Condé Nast magazine Vogue in France and works as a photographic assistant to American photographer Arthur O'Neill.

1926 Takes his first photographs for Vogue.

1927 Takes his first photographs for the Condé Nast magazine Vanity Fair and produces several amateur films.

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1928 His photographs are exhibited for the first time in the Premier Salon Indépendant de la Photographie in Paris.

1929 Exhibits in the landmark exhibition Film und Foto, first staged at Städtische Ausstellungshallen in Stuttgart, an ambitious international survey showcasing new photography and cinema. Visits New York City and Hollywood for the first time.

1930 Meets Horst P. Bohrmann (later Horst P. Horst) in Paris. Together they visit the photographer Cecil Beaton in England. Hoyningen-Huene also visits Hammamet in Tunisia, the site of his future vacation home.

1932 Publishes the book Hoyningen-Huene: Meisterbildnisse in Germany and visits Berlin on assignment. Meets the German photographer Herbert List. Travels to London, New York, Chicago and Hollywood.

1933 Makes a fashion documentary film for Vogue Paris around this time.

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1934 Vanity Fair magazine sends Hoyningen-Huene to Hollywood on assignment.

1935 Leaves Condé Nast and begins working for Harper's Bazaar in Paris, then New York. Meets film director George Cukor around this time.

1936 Isolates himself at his home in Hammamet. Later that year, photographs people and scenery in northern Africa, while on an expedition with a group of amateur explorers.

1938 His book African Mirage, the Record of a Journey is published. Visits Greece for the first time, as well as Southeast Asia and Australia.

1939 Continues working at Harper's Bazaar in New York and makes a second trip to Greece.

1940 His photographs are published in US Camera and Coronet.

1942 Works on the book Hellas, about ancient Greece, and his photographs are published in Popular Photography magazine.

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1946-1947 Leaves Harper's Bazaar and settles briefly in Mexico. His books Mexican Heritage and Baalbek/Palmyra are published. Becomes a US citizen.

1946-1950 Makes three documentary films in Spain, including The Garden of Hieronymus Bosch.

1947 Leaves Mexico for Southern California with the encouragement of George Cukor. Starts teaching at the Art Center School of Los Angeles.

1950 Works briefly for Flair magazine. Exhibits at the US Mission to Greece. Visits Egypt. His photographs are published in US Camera magazine.

1951 Films Daphni: The Virgin of the Golden Laurels in Greece.

1951-1954 Starts work as a colour coordinator for Hollywood films, initially working on George Cukor's A Star is Born starring Judy Garland. He contributes to twelve subsequent films, up until 1963.

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1963 Receives Photokina Photographic Award, Cologne.

1965 Participates in the group exhibition Glamour Portraits at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

1968 Dies at his Los Angeles home.

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ABOUT GRUPO ARTITUDE

Bridging Cultures

What began as a beautiful bridge between Asia and a flourishing Latin American Art scene has grown into a pillar of exceptional talent from international spheres. An advocate for critical contemporary discourse - as well as a vibrant idea exchange - Grupo Artitude is home to innovative, pioneering exhibitions across a variety of media and genres.

Grupo Artitude's international network of leading galleries, art schools and curators are a well of resources, along with social media and on the ground personnel who give us insight into the most exciting and talented new artists and art forms.

Grupo Artitude has a unique and special relationship with their portfolio of international artists, engaging and nurturing them by supporting and enabling their vision and developing creative concepts together.

As a tribute to our Founder Ms Holly Turner Thakran we continue her legacy by specially supporting Latin American Artists who are already established in their region and have gained international prestige, as well as young aspiring artists, who display a great deal of potential.

At Grupo Artitude we are telling a story in the language we are most fluent: the language of visual arts, a vernacular not of words but of images that dazzle, perplex and represent a kaleidoscope, of not just a visual experience, but of a unique time and situation that the artist is trying to convey. **ARTitude Galeria Singapore** is Grupo Artitude's primary gallery. It is located in a sanctuary, a place like no other in Singapore, steeped in 160 years of history, rich with stories & old world charm. Dempsey Hill is a quaint enclave, an epicentre of culture & taste.

For more information, please visit
www.grupoartitude.com

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ABOUT LEICA CAMERA

A Partner for Photography

Leica Camera AG is an international, premium manufacturer of cameras and sports optics. The legendary reputation of the Leica brand is based on a long tradition of excellent quality, German craftsmanship and German industrial design, combined with innovative technologies.

An integral part of the brand's culture is the diversity of activities the company undertakes for the advancement of photography. In addition to the Leica Galleries and Leica Akademies spread around the world, there are the Leica Hall of Fame Award and, in particular, the Leica Oskar Barnack Award (LOBA), which is considered one of the most innovative sponsorship awards existing today.

Furthermore, Leica Camera AG, with its headquarters in Wetzlar, Hesse, and a second production site in Vila Nova de Famalicão, Portugal, has a worldwide network of its own national organisations and Leica Retail Stores.

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