

# Irving Penn

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 13-NOVEMBER 27, 1984

No. 29  
For immediate release

## IRVING PENN

Irving Penn was born in Plainfield, New Jersey in 1917. In 1934 he enrolled at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, where he studied design with Alexey Brodovitch. After graduating from the Museum School in 1938, Penn moved to New York and began a career as a graphic artist, making drawings for Harper's Bazaar and other commercial clients. After a year spent painting in Mexico, Penn returned to New York City and went to work for Alexander Liberman, the Art Director at Vogue magazine.

Penn learned about studio photography at Vogue and produced his first cover, a photographic still life, in 1943. The next year, he took a leave of absence to join the volunteer American Field Service, for which he worked as an ambulance driver and photographer, primarily in Italy and India, until the war's end.

In 1945 Penn resumed his work at Vogue, and his pictures have continued to appear in that publication and in several others since that time. He has also photographed for various commercial clients in America and abroad since 1951.

Four books of Penn's photographs have been published: Moments Preserved (1960), which was printed in five languages; Worlds in a Small Room (1974); Inventive Paris Clothes (1977), which describes 48 dresses designed between the end of the Edwardian era and the beginning of World War I; and Flowers (1980). Penn has exhibited in the United States and in Europe, and his photographs are in the permanent collections of several American museums, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Penn is married and has one son. At present he lives near New York City.

August 1984

This exhibition has been made possible by a generous grant from SCM Corporation.  
Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.