

Wessel - O'Connor Gallery

Vintage and Contemporary Fine Art Photography

60 Thomas Street
New York, New York 10013

Telephone: (212) 406-0040

Fax: (212) 406-0141

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: William O'Connor or John Wessel

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GEORGE DANIELL

Vintage Photographs 1936 - 1966

January 24 - February 24, 1996

Opening: Wednesday, January 24, 6:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Gallery Hours: Tuesdays - Saturdays 12:00 - 6:00 P.M.

The Wessel - O'Connor Gallery is pleased to announce the first New York City solo exhibition of GEORGE DANIELL since 1956. The 45 vintage prints, spanning a period of 30 years, represent his documentary photographs of the 1930, 40s, and 50s and his portraits of eminent figures in the art including Georgia O'Keefe, W.H. Auden, and Ramon Navarro.

George Daniell, who was born in Yonkers, N.Y. in 1913, has been recording life with a camera since his boyhood in the 1920s. He was trained in drawing and painting at Yale University and the Art Students League. During his full and active career, Daniell worked as a free-lance and portrait photographer in New York from 1936 to 1960. Fueled by his lifelong passion, the sea, Daniell recorded people - swimmers, sailors, and lobstermen—and the landscape from Maine to Key West. Daniell documented a body of work which displays his attraction to people both in everyday life and in worldly settings. Spending much of the postwar period roaming the globe on assignment from Paris to Tangiers, Daniell also made two around-the-world trips voyages and frequent trips to Italy. He recorded events as diverse as acrobats performing in the streets of Paris and local fishermen at work on Ischia, Italy, to the celebrity-studded filmmaking activities centered in the studios of Cinecitta in Rome.

Several images from the 1950 trips to Italy, where he was asked to photograph the filming of *War and Peace* epitomize Daniell's eye for capturing the perfection both of screen legends such as Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer, and a "Roman god" in the beauty of a young man on a Trastevere Street. Elsewhere in the world, Daniell sought out both the public carnality of European beach scenes and the quiet moment of a 1950s Fire Island sand sculpture. Daniell permanently settled in Maine in the 1960s and since that time has given most of his photographic attention to the coast and to its creative residents such as Edith Hamilton, John Marin and others.

Mr. Daniell has contributed to *Time*, *Life*, *Esquire*, *Coronet* and *U.S. Camera Annual*. His photographs were first exhibited at the Modernage Gallery, NYC, in 1956, and have been widely seen in subsequent exhibitions in Maine, New York, Florida, and California. His work is included in the collections of the Portland Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the National Gallery in Washington.

Exhibit organized in cooperation with Vincent Cianni Photography