

# NASSAU COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART



Edward Steichen (1879–1973), *Isadora Duncan at the Portal of the Parthenon, Athens*, 1920, Photogravure, from the Early Years portfolio, 1900–1927, Bank of America Collection, © 2026 The Estate of Edward Steichen / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

## **“Influence and Identity | Twentieth Century Portrait Photography from the Bank of America Collection”**

**Exploring celebrity, power, and the making of public identity through photography**

**On view at the Historic Frick Estate from March 21 through July 12, 2026**

February 26, 2026 - Roslyn Harbor, NY. The Nassau County Museum of Art proudly presents **“Influence and Identity | Twentieth Century Portrait Photography from the Bank of America Collection”**, on view from March 21 through July 12, 2026. This exhibition has been loaned through the Bank of America Art in our Communities® program and examines how photography in the early- through mid-twentieth century shaped modern notions of celebrity and power. Through portraits of prominent figures in the arts, politics, and popular culture, the exhibition explores the dynamic relationship between photographer, sitter, and viewer—and how that relationship contributes to the construction of public identity.

Portraiture has long served as both artistic expression and social record. While early forms of portraiture were costly and accessible only to the elite, the invention of photography in the nineteenth century democratized the genre. By the twentieth century, advances in photographic technology allowed for greater flexibility, spontaneity, and psychological depth, enabling photographers to capture not only likeness but character—often inflected with narrative, performance, or fiction.

“Whether celebrated for talent, beauty, political influence, or cultural impact, all of the subjects are shown through the distinctive vision of photographers who helped define how we see—and remember—them,” said NCMA executive director Beth Horn. “NCMA is delighted to partner with Bank of America on this fascinating exhibition. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring an exceptional exhibition to the museum’s audiences that include visitors of all ages and abilities—and schools across the region.”

Comprised of 83 works by 28 portrait photographers, the exhibition highlights the role that photography played in the rise of celebrity culture, from early reproducible images such as the carte de visite to the iconic portraits that shaped Hollywood, politics, and public life. Some photographs helped to create a public persona; others challenged or reframed an already-established reputation. Together, they invite viewers to consider enduring questions: Does identity determine influence, or does influence determine identity? And how do these images continue to resonate today?

This compelling exhibition brings together photographs by some of the most influential portrait photographers of the twentieth century, including Antony Armstrong-Jones (Lord Snowdon), Richard Avedon, Yousuf Karsh, Gisèle Freund, Berenice Abbott, Imogen Cunningham, Garry Winogrand, and others.

“Museums like the Nassau County Museum of Art are such an important part of life here on Long Island, giving our neighbors a chance to connect with art from across generations,” said Marc Perez, president, Bank of America Long Island. “Through our Art in Our Communities® loan program, we’re glad to team up with NCMA again and bring this powerful portrait photography collection to visitors at no cost to the museum.”

**“Influence and Identity | Twentieth Century Portrait Photography from the Bank of America Collection”** is the second exhibition loaned to the Nassau County Museum of Art through the Bank of America Art in our Communities® program, following the 2021 presentation of **“Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop | Works from the Bank of America Collection”**. The program offers Bank of America’s art collection to communities through curated exhibitions that museums and nonprofit galleries may borrow at no cost. The public can enjoy new art installations at local museums while the museums themselves are able to generate vital revenue. Since launching this program in 2008, the bank has loaned exhibitions over 175 times to cultural institutions around the world.

## About the Museum

The Nassau County Museum of Art is located in and around an authentic Gold Coast mansion on the former Frick family estate; the property features a sculpture garden with 43 major works on view, formal gardens, a 100-year-old pinetum, and miles of winding wooded trails on the 145-acre preserve. Also on the property is the Manes Art Education Center, which offers year-round studio art classes and workshops for all ages and abilities and hosts an Artist-in-Residence program.

The Museum, at One Museum Drive, off Northern Boulevard in Roslyn Harbor, New York, 11576, is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 am to 4:45 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65 and above), and \$5 for students and children (4 to 12). Docent-led tours of the exhibition are offered at 2 pm each day; tours of the mansion are offered each Saturday at 1 pm. Both tours are free with museum admission. Admission to the property is free of charge.

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### Image Credits:

Edward Steichen (1879–1973), **Isadora Duncan at the Portal of the Parthenon, Athens, 1920**

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