

PRESS RELEASE—JACKSON FINE ART

Herman Leonard, Jazz Giants

&

Horst. P Horst, Fashion Icons

May 4th-June 30th, 2007

Opening Reception for the artist, Friday, May 4th, 6-8pm

Special book signing with Herman Leonard, Saturday, May 5th, 1pm

Great music inspires listeners to feel. We emotionally react when we hear the hook or melody of an exceptional song. Rarely, however, are listeners given the opportunity to witness the experience of the musician as great music is being made. Distinguished photographer **Herman Leonard** has captured these moments in his photographs of some of the most imaginative and expressive musicians that have ever lived. Jackson Fine Art is thrilled to exhibit *Jazz Giants*, a selection of **Leonard**'s photographs of jazz's biggest legends, including Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespe, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong. **Leonard**'s personal love of jazz music drew him to the New York nightclubs in the 1940s and 50s, but his camera was his ticket inside. He wanted "to make people see the way music sounded." The result was a simultaneous unleashing of creative power—released through sound, song, and the click of **Leonard**'s camera. His creative use of lighting, profiles, and camera angles were surely inspired by jazz's own experimental nature. **Leonard**'s personal admiration for his subjects is evident in the photographs taken in between moments on stage. His visual record of jazz music is, in concert, the personification of a musical epoch as well as a profound body of art. The Smithsonian Institution owns the entire *Images of Jazz* series in its permanent collection. Devastatingly, **Leonard** lost over six thousand photographs as well as his New Orleans studio during Hurricane Katrina. His efforts to salvage his life's work and the story of jazz are documented in the film *Saving Jazz*. **Leonard** claims "to be present when the artist actually creates his work is a profound privilege." It can be assumed that the jazz legends in **Leonard**'s photographs feel the same way about him.

High fashion and photography today seem synonymous, as if one bore out of the other to become the perfect complement. In some regard, it was this way. Photography promoted fashion's rise to an art form while photographs of fashion have matured into their own accomplished genre. This renowned relationship between fashion and photography would not have been realized without visionary pioneers like now legendary fashion photographer **Horst P. Horst**. Jackson Fine Art is proud to exhibit *Fashion Icons*, a selection of his most glamorous photographs. **Horst** began his career in 1931, and he spent the next sixty years creating some of the most celebrated and recognizable fashion images of the 20th century. He worked for the quintessential fashion magazine *Vogue* for whom he shot more than eighty covers over fifty years. **Horst** is credited as being one of the first photographers to acknowledge and elevate the role of the fashion model. He helped establish the prolific careers of models such as Lisa Fonssagrives, who later became the muse and wife of fellow fashion photographer Irving Penn. **Horst** also photographed some of the most alluring stars and socialites of their time, including Marlene Dietrich, Coco Chanel and Jacqueline Kennedy, each who have evolved into icons themselves. **Horst**'s photographs flawlessly capture the style and elegance of an era essential to fashion today. A style and elegance we continually attempt to emulate but can never quite reclaim.

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3115 East Shadowlawn Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10-5 pm. For more information please contact Malia Stewart at 404.233.3739.