



Image captions attached separately.



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For more information contact:

Kathleen Glass
Communications Manager
Asheville Art Museum
828.253.3227, ext. 116
kglass@ashevilleart.org

Asheville Art Museum Debuts Two Important Exhibitions Remembering the History of Nazi Germany and the Memory of World War II Survivors

Exhibitions open: December 15, 2012 | Reception: January 12, 2013 (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

ASHEVILLE, NC — **On December 15, 2012, the Asheville Art Museum will debut two important and evocative exhibitions recognizing the history and haunting memory of Nazi Germany during World War II and the legacy of those who survived. *Survivors and Liberators: Portraits by Wilma Bulkin Siegel* and *In the Camps: Photographs by Erich Hartmann* will be on view in the Museum's East Wing beginning Saturday, December 15, 2012 with an opening reception taking place on the evening of Saturday, January 12, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (free with membership or regular Museum admission).**

Survivors and Liberators: Portraits by Wilma Bulkin Siegel
Saturday, December 15, 2012 – Sunday, March 31, 2013
Asheville Art Museum | East Wing

In 2003 Wilma Siegel began painting portraits of what is, sadly, a dwindling population: Holocaust survivors living in South Florida. While the number of potential subjects is vast—as many 15,000—it is hardly permanent. The realization that so many of these faces and stories are passing away has led Siegel to begin this project, which also includes World War II veterans.



Siegel's often grand-scaled watercolors are bold, direct and very personal portraits. She incorporates photographs and other mementos belonging to the subjects into their portraits, each of which represents a casual intimacy while also serving as a chronicle, a record of a life lived fully. A short biography of the subject accompanies each portrait, retracing their route from Europe's concentration camps to life in the United States.

This exhibition was organized and curated by the Asheville Art Museum with support from Mills Manufacturing Corporation, and with special thanks to Annegreth Nill.

Please see attachment for corresponding image credits. Additional high resolution photographs are available upon request.

In the Camps: Photographs by Erich Hartmann
Saturday, December 15, 2012 – Sunday, April 14, 2013
Asheville Art Museum | East Wing

Born in Munich, Germany, Erich Hartmann was sixteen when he and his family came to the United States as refugees from Nazi persecution. After the war he worked in New York City as an assistant to a portrait photographer, and later as a freelance photographer. In 1952 he was invited to join Magnum Photos, an international photographers' cooperative founded two years after the end of WWII.

Hartmann first became known to a wider public in the 1950's through a series of photo essays for *Fortune* magazine, beginning with *The Deep North* (1956). Throughout his career, he traveled widely on assignments for major magazines published in the U.S., Europe and Japan. His principal interest in photography, as in life, was the way in which people relate both to their natural surroundings and to the environments they create.

In his late years, Hartmann undertook a winter journey to photograph the mute and horrifying remains of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps, resulting in the book and exhibition ***In the Camps***, published in 1995 in four languages and exhibited in more than twenty venues in the U.S. and Europe in the years since. The Asheville Art Museum is honored to host this important and evocative exhibition.

This exhibition was organized and curated by the Asheville Art Museum with special thanks to Magnum Photos and Ruth Hartmann.

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and students (K-12 and college students with college ID). Children age five and younger are admitted free of charge. Members are admitted free of charge. The Holden Community Gallery, Museum Shop and Biltmore Gallery (all located on the first floor/street level of the Museum, are open at all times to the general public free of charge).

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.