Photograph - Mainbocher Corset

Object: Photograph

Place of origin: Paris (photographed)

Date: 08/1939 (photographed)
15/09/1939 (published)
12/1939 (published)

Artist/Maker: Horst , born 1906 - died 1999 (photographer)

Materials and Techniques: Gelatin silver print

Museum number: PH.222-1985

Gallery location: On short term loan out for exhibition

Public access description

The German-born photographer Horst P. Horst (real name Horst Bohrmann) began to work for the French Vogue in 1931, a year after his arrival in Paris. He was greatly influenced by his Surrealist contemporaries such as Salvador Dali and Man Ray, using elements of Surrealism in his work.

This photograph was taken on the day he left France for New York, just weeks before the outbreak of the Second World War. It was then published in the French Vogue in December 1939. The dramatic lighting and the body, which is only partially seen, are elements which often occurred in Horst’s work and suggest a Surrealist influence.

Descriptive line

Photograph by Horst P. Horst, 'Mainbocher Corset', Corset designed by Detolle for Mainbocher modelled by Madame Bernon. Gelatin silver print, 1939.

Physical description

Fashion photograph depicting a model wearing a corset. Seen from the back, the model has raised, bent arms and lowers her head to her left shoulder. The corset has back-lacing, the stay ribbons are left partly undone.

Dimensions

Height: 347 mm Paper, Width: 275 mm Paper, Height: 256 mm Image, Width: 200 mm Image

Museum number

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URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O143940/mainbocher-corset-photograph-horst/