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The Three Graces: Snapshots of Twentieth-century Women

By Michal Raz-russo

Yale University Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Snapshots preserve more than individual likeness and memory. Photographs of celebrations, vacations, and gatherings of family and friends are collected with the aim of constructing and preserving a personal identity for future generations. What happens, however, when a snapshot is subsequently discarded or displaced and becomes merely an anonymous image? This and many other questions are discussed in this fascinating selection of anonymous images depicting three women. Presumably all taken by nonprofessionals, these snapshots were acquired over time by a private collector interested in their eclectic yet familiar details, who named the grouping after the iconic Greco-Roman motif. In traditional western iconography, the Three Graces personify beauty, charm, and grace in both nature and humanity. In the 150 snapshots assembled here, the remarkable consistency of confidence and poise projected by the trios of women-in varied settings, in various states of dress/undress, and over a period of more than fifty years-reveals the formal and behavioral conventions that evolved as photography's popularity skyrocketed among amateurs. To this end, the iconography of The Three Graces provides a framework for understanding the generational...



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