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**ABOUT FACE**

**JULY 10 - AUGUST 23, 2002**

**GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY, 10 - 6**

**Project gallery: Yousuf Karsh: Artist, Writers, Musicians**

The Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to announce **About Face**, a group exhibition exploring the impact of the early 20th century German photographer August Sander on later photographic portraiture. The exhibition will include the work of Sander, Diane Arbus, Thomas Ruff, Rineke Dykstra, Dawoud Bey, Jitka Hanzlova, Mette Tronvoll, Chan Chao and Jona Frank. **About Face** is on view from July 10 - August 23, 2002. The public is invited to the opening reception on Wednesday, July 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 - 6 p.m.

In 1910 August Sander began "Man of the 20th Century", his longterm photographic project conceived as a typographical catalog of the German people. Sander photographed his subjects straight on in as precise and descriptive a manner as possible, declaring in 1931, "The essence of all photography is of a documentary nature."

In the work included in **About Face**, the subject faces the camera's scrutiny directly, setting up a tension between the subject's presentation of himself and the photographer's control of the image. The sitter is clearly aware of being photographed and consciously returns the camera's gaze, engaging in a collaborative act of picture-making. With the exception of Ruff, these very formal portraits are most often made in informal or natural settings with a large format camera as if the photographer recreated his studio out of doors.

Sander's categories included farmers, industrialists, artists, circus performers and soldiers. He also, however, photographed groups such as beggars and blind children in an equally objective manner. In his Credo of 1927 he noted photography's ability "to reproduce things with grandiose beauty; but also with cruel truthfulness", perhaps influencing Arbus' fascination in her work with the perverse and disenfranchised.

Like Sander, the contemporary photographers in **About Face** typically work in serial form; often, however, choosing to photograph friends and acquaintances repeatedly over a period of years. Unlike Arbus who photographed the "other" of society, Ruff has photographed fellow artists and students, originally producing them as small-scale portraits arranged in grids akin to the typologies of his teachers Hilla and Bernd Becher,



themselves disciples of Sander. Later Ruff produced prints of his portraits in a larger-than-life scale. Mette Tronvoll has created a series about family relations, including images of a single parent with a child and a portrait of her elderly grandfather. In addition to "Female", her series on adult women, Hanzlova has photographed pre-adolescent girls. Dykstra has photographed adolescents in locations around the world while Bey has focused on African American youth in New York and Chicago and Frank has dissected the social strata of highschool. Lastly, Chan Chao's dignified portraits of guerilla fighters made in his homeland of Burma portray his subjects as calm and gentle.